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LD1706133888 [Editorial Report]

Israel

Five Palestinians received gunshot wounds in Bayt Furik near Nabulus 17 June when IDF soldiers opened fire on "crowds of rioters" trying to prevent soldiers from wrecking the home of a man implicated in several murders, IDF radio reported. Two IDF officers were injured by stones, and the house was blown up, the radio noted.

As part of a campaign to discourage firebombing and other violence, security forces in the occupied territories demolished 14 Arab homes and sealed off 4 others, Jerusalem radio reported earlier. Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin stressed in a station interview that the government wants to "make it clear" that it "intends to severely punish" those who throw firebombs. A military court in Nabulus sentenced a Palestinian journalist to 4 years in prison for instigating protesters to throw firebombs at IDF soldiers in April, HA'ARETZ reported. The paper noted that over 800 Molotov cocktails were hurled in the territories during the first 6 months of the uprising, adding that most were aimed at Israeli vehicles.

In 'Akko a Hadera woman suffered a "serious" eye injury when youths stoned the train on which she was riding, Jerusalem radio reported.

Lebanon

Two men were killed by Israeli soldiers who intercepted a "terrorist squad" on the western slopes of Mount Hermon, IDF radio reported, noting that the Israeli side sustained no casualties. According to Beirut radio, Amal claimed responsibility for the clashes and acknowledged that two "resistance fighters" were killed.

After more "violent fighting" between warring Palestinian factions in the Shatila and Burj al-Barajinah camps, another cease-fire agreement was reached, Voice of Lebanon reported.

A Lebanese banker's three children, who were kidnapped 14 June, were released and returned home after Hizballah conducted a "wide-scale search" of Beirut's southern suburb, Voice of Lebanon reported 17 June.

Iran

The Iranian Embassy in Paris "categorically" denied that Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni is dead, AFP reported 17 June, noting that the statement came in response to a UK television report on rumors circulating among Iranian exiles in the French capital. Exiles reportedly told the station that members of the Khomeyni family rushed to Tehran and that the guards at Khomeyni's residence had been "changed suddenly." Telephone service to Tehran was disrupted, and officials suddenly canceled scheduled foreign travel, the exile sources said. The Iranian Embassy dismissed the report as a response to the resumption of diplomatic relations between France and Iran, AFP added.

Tunisia-PLO

Three groups have been arrested on charges of planning to attack PLO leaders in Tunis, according to a UAE press report cited by WAKH. "Informed sources" revealed to AL-ITTIHAD that among those detained are a Briton and four Jews holding Australian passports. Several people were taken into custody as they were "conducting radio contacts using very sophisticated, large-sized communications equipment" near the coastal city of Qulaybiyah.

Pakistan

The municipal authorities of Islamabad issued an announcement banning gatherings of five or more people as well as the carrying of firearms within city limits, AFP reported. The ordinance will be in effect for 2 months.

President Ziaul Haq announced the appointment of Z.A. Suleri, former editor of the state-owned PAKISTAN TIMES, as media adviser with the rank of minister of state, the agency reported, noting that the new official will be responsible for eliminating "un-Islamic features" from the media. The president also named a new caretaker governor of the Northwest Frontier Province and reappointed the chief minister of Punjab.

Afghanistan

After 6 days of debate, the Wolasi Jirgah gave the new government a unanimous vote of confidence, BAKHTAR reported. In a speech carried by Kabul radio, Prime Minister Muhammad Hasan Sharq reiterated the government's commitment to national reconciliation and pledged that every effort will be made toward peace and reconstruction.

Regarding the situation in the southeast, "official sources" cited by AFP in a Quetta-datelined item said that Afghan and Pakistani forces continued their artillery duel across the Baluchistan border and that the Afghan Army and the mujahidin "intensified" their battle for Spin Buldak. Both sides have suffered "heavy casualties," and traffic is "suspended" on the Spin Buldak-Qandahar road, the agency added.

PDRY-YAR

At the end of the PDRY energy minister's 2-day trip to the northern city of Ta'izz for consultations with his YAR counterpart, the two sides agreed to set up a joint Yemeni company for petroleum investment and

resources development, Sanaa and Aden radios reported. A preparatory committee was tasked with working out management and other details by the end of July. A "press statement" broadcast by Aden radio characterized the decision as the greatest practical expression" of the unionist agreement concluded in Sanaa on 4 May and noted that it has opened "new and wide horizons for cooperation."

Iran-Iraq War

Iraqi troops succeeded in liberating another height in the Al-Sulaymaniyah region, a military spokesman revealed to WAKH, adding that clean-Une 17jun5aap operations are in progress prior to "purging" the Iranians from the area. The spokesman also noted that Iraqi forces are in "full control" of all areas in the southern operational sector.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Algerian Foreign Minister's Statement on Summit

LD1606152088 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1221 GMT 16 Jun 88

[Statement to the press by Algerian Foreign Minister Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi on the results of the Arab summit; date, place not given—live or recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful.

Dear brothers, I am pleased to meet the national press and the representatives of the foreign press in Algeria. The aim of this meeting is to discuss the events in Algeria during the past few days, particularly the emergency Arab summit and the summit which brought together five leaders of the Arab Maghreb.

The emergency Arab summit, which was held in Algiers, was undoubtedly a political event and a news event at the same time. As host country, we tried to devote all our efforts to making this summit successful. It was very easy as host country to remain in permanent contact with journalists. However, we wanted to avoid giving only an Algerian view and for this reason we preferred that the Arab League secretary general be the official summit spokesman for the summit so that a comprehensive Arab picture of the proceedings and of the results of this summit would be given. At the end of the summit Algeria, as host country, preferred that the PLO chairman give his assessment of summit to journalists, as the summit was held for Palestine and if the opinion of the Palestinian brothers were positive then it was also positive as far as Algeria is concerned because the summit was held for the sake of the uprising, a fact which must not be forgotten in judging the value of the summit.

Today, I would compliment the meeting between the secretary-general of the Arab League and the head of the PLO about this summit. [as heard] First of all, I would like to remind you of the preparatory phase of this summit which lasted from the time of the brother president's call to convene the meeting until its opening day—3 complete months, during which the uprising was able to widen, organize, and deepen. During this 3-month period the council of the Arab League met several times and took measures. These measures were aimed at supporting the uprising on the political, propaganda, and material levels. Out of the proceedings of the ministerial council, a seven-man subcommittee was formed under Algeria's leadership in order to coordinate these efforts. Thus, funds were gathered from Arab governments and individuals, as well as from non-Arab governments and international organizations.

On the political level, the seven-man committee was able draw up a program of mobilization and information in the capitals of the permanent members of the Security Council. They were even able to undertake activities inside the Security Council and to lobby the heads of the Nonaligned Movement and the OAU. We as Algerians know the implications of a Security Council meeting convened for the benefit of the Palestinian uprising. This is because we know from the days of our own struggle the reverberations of meetings held in any international forum about Algeria.

In addition to inter-Arab consultations, which intensified from 10 April, that is, from the day the Arab League ministerial council decided that the summit be held in Algiers, it was decided to hold this summit in the 1st week of June and then, as you well know, the brother president sent envoys from the political leadership and entrusted them with messages to the kings and presidents of Arab states inviting them to attend the summit on 7 June 1988.

The reason why I am concentrating on this precise political preparation for the summit is because I would like to show that detailed preparation was one of the factors which ensured the success of the summit. However, the main factor remains the uprising's positive repercussions in Palestinian and Arab ranks and in all international circles.

If we want to talk about the summit we must highlight the positive aspects. We can say that the contribution of the Arab leaders, seen in the number and level of their delegations, is the best evidence of everybody's intention to make the Algiers summit a major event in the consolidation of joint Arab action in the interest of our sacred cause, i.e. the cause of the Palestinian people.

All the kings and presidents attended with the exception of three who were unable to attend due to unavoidable circumstances. We can say that the reasons for the absence of those three leaders were objective. The presence of the OAU chairman, President Moussa Traore, demonstrated the solidarity of the African continent with the Palestinian people and the importance which the African continent attaches to our Arab causes of destiny.

As for the proceedings of the summit conference they included comprehensive and in-depth discussions which were held in closed sessions and marked by frankness, a sense of responsibility, and a clear awareness of the hope pinned on this summit by, first of all, the Palestinian masses and then by the Arab masses.

As you have noticed, everybody expressed gratitude to Algeria and its president who conducted the debates with objectivity, patience, and wisdom which fostered a suitable atmosphere for fruitful discussions.

The positive results achieved by this summit are manifest in the consolidation of support for the uprising, and in clearing the atmosphere among Arabs. As for the political results, I believe that in addition to the principles that are already known regarding the Palestinian

cause for which the summit was convened, it is possible to say that for the first time in Arab history a summit meeting has adopted a unified Arab stance with regard to the nature and aims an international peace conference on the Middle East under the supervision of the United Nations, and also concerning the principles on which this conference would be based and its participants. This is an extremely important point because a number of people, and even the Arabs' friends, were wondering and asking about the political content of such an international conference.

I would like to remind you that the Algiers summit agreed the seven principles adopted in Fes in September 1982 as a realistic and responsible stance of the Arab world with regard to a comprehensive, legitimate, and lasting resolution of the conflict in the MIddle East.

If the Fes meeting was limited to principles, the Algiers summit dealt with the framework of peace and with providing answers to questions on the international conference.

Regarding the nature of the conference, it has become clear that the Arabs would like an effective conference. This means that the conference which would take place would not be an umbrella for separate dialogue between the Zionist entity and separate Arab states, but a conference where the Palestinian cause is the essential issue on its agenda. An effective conference means a conference that has prerogatives, prerogatives which should be exercised. So much for the nature of the conference.

As for the participants: At Algiers we emphasized that this conference should be attended by the five permanent member-states of the UN Security Council and by all parties to the conflict including the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, on an equal footing with the other parties. So much for the participants in the conference.

The next point is the aims of the conference: As Arabs, we would like to see an international conference resulting in the establishment of an independent Palestinian state whose capital would be Jerusalem, the withdrawal of Zionist forces from all occupied Arab territories, and the guaranteeing of the security of the region's states including the Palestinian state.

This was a review of the political results of the summit, as far as the Palestinian issue is concerned.

On the sidelines of this basic point on the agenda—and for which the summit was convened—I should point to the efforts that were made to clear the Arab atmosphere. These were Algerian efforts which did not begin in Algeria but which were continued in Algeria, and they relate to the clearing of the atmosphere between Syria and the PLO, between Lebanon and the PLO, between Jordan and the PLO, between Syria and Lebanon and between the two Yemens—all these efforts were made in Algeria and were aimed at clearing the Arab atmosphere in order to help consolidate our basic cause.

As regards financial and material aid for the uprising, the Algiers summit decided upon material commitments proposed by the PLO which would help the continuation of the uprising. The Algiers summit also studied the needs of Syria, Jordan and Lebanon, and it studied ways of meeting these needs. So much for clearing the atmopshere.

It would have been unusual for the Arab leaders to meet—even though the meeting was an emergency conference about the Palestinian issue—without studying the Iraq-Iran war. The Algiers summit reaffirmed the stance of the Amman summit as regards the necessity of implementing Resolution 598 of the Security Council in order to arrive at a just and honorable solution to the Iran-Iraq conflict, with the proviso of our commitment to the territorial integrity of fraternal Iraq within its internationally recognized borders. So much for the Iraq-Iran war.

Another point was studied in Algiers, that of Arab-African cooperation. We found at the Algiers summit a clear echo of the 24th African summit which was held last May in Addis Ababa on the 25th anniversary of the foundation of our continental organization, the OAU. The best symbol of this Arab-African cooperation and solidarity was the presence of the current chairman of the OAU, the president of our neighbor and sister, Mali, at the rostrum of the Arab [word indistinct] summit in Algiers.

And now dear brothers and sisters, after this summary of the Algiers summit I would like to say something, or rather to complete this introductory statement by going into the last event which Algeria witnessed—namely the summit which brought together five leaders of the Maghreb.

First, this summit has important dimensions not because it is the first summit of its kind but because it clearly demonstrates the maturity of the idea of a Maghreb and the maturity of a collective will to work effectively to launch a new process for building the unity of the Greater Maghreb.

Algeria values this event positively and views it as a qualitative development in the Maghreb arena. You all know that Algeria has worked for a long time for the idea of a Greater Maghreb. We carried out intensive consultations in 1983 to this end and also last year on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of Algeria's independence. On that particular occasion the brother president called for a Maghreb initiative based on the message: Let us leave the slogans aside and make the idea a reality. Contacts were made with all the parties in the region and we worked toward improving relations between the two sister countries, Libya and Tunisia. Then we saw the restoration of relations beteen Algeria and Morocco and that made this meeting possible.

As you have noticed, this meeting avoided all philosophical statements or all programs concerning the building of the Greater Maghreb because the belief in this idea exists in the collective Maghreb conscience and the ideas exist among all parties. Therefore, this summit limited itself to a statement which set out the creation of a committee. This committee, which will be a second framework for discussions, will meet in Algiers, God willing, on 13 July 1988.

'Source' on Arab Summit Aid to 'Uprising'

JN1606130688 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 17 Jun 88

[Randa Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Text] An Arab source that took part in the emergency Arab summit in Algiers has stressed to us that the participating Arab states did not agree at the time on a specific plan to support the uprising in the occupied Arab territories and that they only committed themselves to paying an emergency amount of $128 million to the PLO. However, the source pointed out that it was not determined how the installments would be distributed among the Arab states nor how to set a timetable to supply the uprising with the required funds.

The source believed that the PLO would hold contacts with the rich Arab states to determine the funds required from each Arab state. The second measure the PLO is expected to take according to the same source is to resort to the Arab League to determine each state's share of this aid in accordance with its contribution to the Arab League's annual budget.

In another development, the source denied that the summit adopted resolutions to allocate monthly funds to support the uprising as some media sources said. The source said that the $128 million is the same amount that was approved during the Arab foreign ministers council's meetings in Tunis last January.

Regarding the financial commitments to the confrontation states, particularly Jordan and Syria, the amount of this aid was left to contacts between each of these states and the oil-producing states.

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Said Prepared To Negotiate With Israel

JN1706061988 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 17 Jun 88

[Text] In a statement published in Tunis and carried partially by THE WASHINGTON TIMES, PLO Chairman 'Arafat's adviser Bassam Abu Sharif said that the PLO is prepared to hold direct negotiations with Israel within the framework of an international conference for peace in the Middle East. Abu Sharif noted that the Palestinians deceive themselves if they believe that their problems with the Israelis could be solved by negotiations with parties other than Israel, such as the United States.

Abu Sharif also voiced the PLO readiness to discuss the Palestinian problem or the Palestinian-Israeli dispute with the Labor Party, the Likud Bloc, or any other party that the Israelis may choose to represent them.

Fatah Official on Relations With Jordan, Syria

JN1606192288 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 15 Jun 88 p 2

[By Ahmad al-Shammari]

[Excerpts] Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf, also known as Abu Iyad, has described the recent Arab extraordinary summit conference in Algiers as one of the most successful Arab conferences ever held. In an open meeting with newsmen and journalists held at the Fatah office in Al-Jabiriyah, Abu Iyad expressed the Palestinian leadership's pride in, and appreciation for the resolutions passed by the conference. He described these resolutions as great support for the Palestinian people's 7-month-old uprising in the occupied territories. He said these resolutions have made supporting the Palestinian cause in general and the people's uprising in the occupied territories in particular the first Arab issue at this stage. [passage omitted]

Abu Iyad touched on Syrian-Palestinian relations. He noted that a new chapter in relations has been opened following the funeral of martyr Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir] in Damascus and the Al-Asad-'Arafat meeting. He added: However, there are many forces which do not want these relations to continue, and they move in a fierce and reckless manner. Among these forces were the Fatah dissidents. Regrettably, once again they broke the rules and attacked the camps to tell the world we exist. The weapons they use against the camps are deployed on the mountains and under the control of the Syrian forces. By so doing, they are asserting Syrian approval of their actions. This is the conspiracy. Actually, we cannot say that we agreed about the Palestinian groups in Syria which try to claim that they speak on behalf of Syria. Therefore, they hurried to deal a blow to the Palestinian camps in Lebanon to imply that there are no new developments in Palestinian-Syrian relations. In addition, they want gains on the ground because they feel that they have been left out.

He added: Syria replied to dissident acts and rumors about the deterioration in Syrian-Palestinian relations by sending a delegation to participate in a ceremony marking 40 days since the murder of Abu Jihad. Then came the Algiers meeting between Al-Asad and 'Arafat. The meeting was relaxed. We are still at the beginning of the road. We must have strong relations with Syria. Our

camps in Lebanon have been suffering massacres for years. We want these massacres to cease and our dignity maintained without yielding on any of our principles. [passage omitted]

On Jordanian-Palestinian relations and related discussions on passports and other issues, Abu Iyad said: Before the Algiers summit, many rumors surfaced to the effect that Jordan will withdraw passports from the Palestinians and replace them with travel documents, dismiss Palestinian deputies from parliament and other such things. I do not see this so much as rumors but more as a plot against Jordan aimed at turning the masses in Jordan against the regime. The Rabat Arab summit had decreed that whatever rights the Palestinians have acquired in any Arab country are not to be lost before the Palestinian state comes into existence. These rights are not permanent but temporary. The circles that moved when the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement was signed were active again before the Algiers summit. It is up to Jordan to find out who these are. We are happy with Jordan's stand at the Algiers summit, which was preceded by the six points featured in the document presented to George Shultz. That was also a good document. Accordingly, Jordanian-Palestinian relations and cooperation will be excellent. Once the Palestinian state is in existence, we will lose no time in opening talks with Jordan on a confederal relationship, since we are one people with shared geography.

Question from AL-QABAS correspondent: The PLO received renewed Arab backing at the Algiers summit for its right to represent the Palestinian people and handle the affairs of the Palestinian uprising as well as representing the Palestinian people in international forums. This being said, does the PLO contemplate proclaiming a government-in-exile?

Abu Iyad said: This point must be on the agenda of the leadership of any liberation movement. I cannot say that a government-in-exile is absolutely out of the question. However, the timing of setting up a government is crucial. Looking at other peoples' experiences, we find that a government-in-exile is set up when there are serious negotiations on the evacuation of occupied land and when a national authority is about to take over. So the revolution proclaims a national government by way of preparations for serious negotiations and taking over the national authority. As things stand, I do not think that things have ripened to the point of conducting serious negotiations before authority has been handed over to the people. The government-in-exile is on the agenda and the announcement thereof will depend on the right circumstances. [passage omitted]

Algeria

Army Chief of Staff Belhouchet Arrives in Moscow

LD1606095988 Algiers APS in Arabic 0910 GMT 16 Jun 88

[Text] Moscow, 16 Jun (APS)—Major General Abdallah Belhouchet, deputy defense minister and chief of staff of the National People's Army, arrived in Moscow yesterday on an official visit to the Soviet Union.

Major General Belhouchet is accompanied by an important military delegation consisting of senior officers of the National People's Army. He was met on arrival by Marshal Sergey Akhromeyev, USSR first deputy defense minister and chief of the Soviet Armed Forces General Staff. The Algerian ambassador to Moscow, as well as [words indistinct], a number of senior officers of the Soviet Armed Forces General Staff, and members of the Algerian Embassy in Moscow were among the welcoming party. It is noteworthy that this visit comes at the invitation of the Soviet side.

Energy Minister Nabi Holds Talks in Moscow

LD1606212188 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 16 Jun 88

[Text] Belkacem Nabi, minister of energy, chemical, and petrochemical industries, held talks in Moscow today with Soviet Minister of Foreign Economic Relations Konstantin Katushev. The talks dealt with the results of the meetings of experts who had studied projects and the scope of cooperation between the two countries in the spheres of energy and petrochemical industries. The principle of the setting up of joint ventures for the production of fertilizers and chemicals was accepted on the condition that the experts of the two countries continue their talks with the aim of accelerating cooperation in this field.

Belkacem Nabi is visiting the USSR at the head of an important delegation which includes cadres from his ministry and from the Algerian company Sonatrach, at the invitation of the Soviet minister.

Foreign Minister Meets With Iranian Envoy

LD1506164188 Algiers APS in Arabic 1420 GMT 15 Jun 88

[Text] Algiers, 15 Jun (APS)—Foreign Minister Taleb Ibrahimi and the Iranian ambassador to Algeria have discussed the efforts being made to find a peaceful and honorable solution to the Iran-Iraq conflict. They also discussed the results of the extraordinary Arab summit on the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories.

Tehran Reports Meeting

LD1606110788 Tehran IRNA in English 0810 GMT 16 Jun 88

[Text] Algiers, June 16, IRNA—Iran's ambassador to Algeria Siavosh Zargaran Ya'qubi met with Algerian Foreign Minister Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi Wednesday and discussed outcome of the recently concluded Algiers Arab summit.

Ya'qubi expressed regrets of the Iranian officials on the resolution of the Algiers summit. He said main reason behind the uprising of the Palestinians in occupied Palestine is their protest against the results of the Amman Arab summit including re-establishment of ties with Egypt by Arab states.

More on the same subject he said the Algiers summit was not any better and in fact it gave a green light to Arab reactionaries for further direct contacts with the Zionists.

The Iranian diplomat stressed that the Palestinian uprising is totally motivated by politics and its cause must be sought in support of the reactionary regimes for the U.S. and the Zionists. He also criticised the summit's resolution against the Islamic Republic of Iran. The only outcome of such actions, he said was to make regimes such as the one ruling over Baghdad bolder in their war crimes.

Ibrahimi stressed the neutrality of his country on the Iraq-Iran war and said the resolution represented the stance of the Arab League and that Algiers stance on the issue had been stated by President Chadli Bendjedid in his address to the summit.

The Algerian president in his opening speech to the summit had called for an honourable end to the Iraq-Iran war.

Kuwaiti Commerce Minister Received for Talks

LD1406135388 Algiers APS in English 1016 GMT 14 Jun 88

[Text] Algiers, 14 June (APS)—Cooperation between Algeria and Kuwait and ways of consolidating it was at the center of talks the Kuwait minister of trade had here with Algerian officials. Faysal 'Abd al-Razzaq al-Khalid examined with Finance Minister Abdelaziz Khellef economic and financial cooperation between the two countries. With Zitouni Messaoudi light industries minister they explored potentialities of each country and reaffirmed their common will to strengthen cooperation among Arab countries in general and their two countries in particular. They insisted on the necessity to develop a new dynamic of exchange between economic operators.

Faysal 'Abd al-Razzaq al-Khalid is in Algeria at the invitation of his counterpart Mohamed Amokrane Cherifi.

Commercial Accord Signed

LD1706013788 Kuwaiti KUNA in English 1217 GMT 16 Jun 88

Algiers, June 16 (KUNA)—An accord for the promotion of commercial exchanges between Algiera and Kuwait was signed on Wednesday by Mohamed Amokrane Cherifi trade minister and his Kuwaiti counterpart Faysal 'Abd al-Razzaq al-Khalid. This accord provides for the increasing of volume of commercial exchanges between the two sister countries as well as the exoneration of customs tariffs for products made in the two countries. This accord also provides for the organization of fares, exchange of delegations, the meeting of conditions for a better contact between the two chambers of commerce. The setting up of a joint commission, in charge of the follow-up is also scheduled in this accord. The two sides also agreed on the opening of a regular maritime link between the two countries, in order to facilitate the commercial exchanges. In the field of industry and tourism, the two sides agreed on the creation of a joint firm that will achieve tourist projects in Algeria and in other countries.

FLN Politburo Views Arab, Maghreb Summits

PM1606134688 Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 13 Jun 88 p 3

[APS report: "A Historic Contribution"]

[Text] The FLN Central Committee Politburo met yesterday, 12 June 1988, under the chairmanship of Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Republic and party secretary general.

The Politburo weighed the results of the extraordinary Arab summit which was held in Algiers at President Chadli Bendjedid's initiative.

In this context, the Politburo welcomed the high-level participation of Arab sovereigns and heads of state in the summit and the contribution they made. They also expressed satisfaction with the high level of responsibility which was shown during the summit and with the political results which are in keeping with the requirements of the Palestinian people's uprising in the occupied territories.

The Politburo singled-out the summit's historic contribution to unifying Arab ranks and strengthening collective Arab action in support of the Palestinian people's sacred cause. He also welcomed the Arab world's consolidated unity in the reaffirmation of the requirements for a just, lasting, and comprehensive solution to the Middle East conflict, namely the satisfaction of the Palestinian people's inalienable national rights, including the right to set up an independent state in their homeland, and the liberation of all occupied Arab territories. In this area, the Politburo welcomed the formulation of a joint Arab position on the principles and objectives of the international Middle East peace conference under UN auspices.

While greeting with pride the historical upsurge of the Arab Nation in Algiers to match the Palestinian people's uprising, the Politburo paid tribute to the Arab sovereigns and heads of state for their unanimity in pledging to strengthen the people's resistance in the occupied territories both politically and materially and for the importance they attach to the indivisible nature of the Arab world's collective security.

The Politburo also examined the results of the summit in Algiers between the heads of state of Algeria, Libya, Morocco, Mauritania, and Tunisia. They expressed satisfaction at this meeting, which marks a very important qualitative development in consultations aimed at speeding up the process of building a united Greater Arab Maghreb. The Politburo also welcomed the actual start of joint thinking toward the gradual and rational organization of economic complementarity and political coordination in the region for the benefit of all its peoples.

In this connection, the Politburo hailed the resumption of relations between Algeria and Morocco as a major contribution to the establishment of a permanent climate of peace, good-neighborly relations, and cooperation in the Maghreb region and to Arab unity. In addition they saw it as a development likely to promote a just and final solution to the fratricidal conflict between the Kingdom of Morocco and the SDAR.

Reaffirming Algeria's intention to spare no effort to hasten a solution to the West Saharan conflict in accordance with the wishes of Africa and the international community and with the aspirations of the fraternal Moroccan and Saharan peoples, the Politburo expressed once again Algeria's support and encouragement for the good offices of the OAU chairman and the UN secretary general.

The Politburo considered the results of the 24th OAU summit which coincided with celebrations for the 25th anniversary of the continental organization's formation. Noting with satisfaction President Chadli Bendjedid's contribution to the success of that summit, the Politburo welcomed the fact that the OAU member states reaffirmed their collective determination to step up their action with a view to finding a peaceful settlement to inter-African disputes and to achieving the permanent objectives of completing the continent's liberation and guaranteeing its development.

The Politburo also expressed satisfaction with the intention of the African and Arab organizations to promote further their solidarity and cooperation. In this connection, they expressed their appreciation for the personal

participation of President Moussa Traore, current OAU chairman, in the Algiers extraordinary Arab summit as an expression of combined African and Arab efforts to tackle common challenges.

In national affairs, the Politburo listened to a report on the progress made in political preparations for the 6th FLN Congress.

The Politburo also examined the draft agenda for the 20th party Central Committee session which will start on 21 June 1988.

Chad

UPT To Initiate Contacts With Government

AB1606145288 Paris AFP in French 1348 GMT 16 Jun 88

[Text] Lagos, 16 Jun (AFP)—The Chadian People's Union (UPT) has decided to contact the Chadian Government of Hissein Habre "with the view to achieving national reconciliation and returning to the fatherland," a UPT communique handed over to AFP in Lagos announced. The UPT made this decision as a result of what it calls the "betrayal of Libya and its allies. Indeed, the UPT "denounces and strongly condemns" the "so-called agreement" signed in March by the five factions that later set up a "puppet GUNT—Transitional National Union Government," the text added. "This is, once again, a Libyan maneuver to make the national and international public believe the existence of a GUNT to justify its interventions in Chad," the communique explained.

The UPT makes a strong appeal to the senior staff, militants, and supporters of the UPT living in Libya to make all the necessary arrangements to leave that country." In conclusion, it calls on "all the Chadian refugees to refrain from visiting Libya and being recruited by force into the Libyan Army, for a recruitment campaign is currently in full swing," the text concluded.

French Fund Finances Satellite Project

AB0706215188 Paris AFP in French 0743 GMT 7 Jun 88

[Text] Ndjamena, 7 Jun (AFP)—Chad yesterday signed a financial agreement with the French Central Fund for Economic Cooperation for feasibility studies on a national satellite telecommunications network (RNTSAT). This grant of 65 million CFA francs (Fr1.3 million) will make it possible to complete the first phase of this satellite network. This project follows the installation of an international satellite relay center at Goudji, in the northern suburb of Ndjamena, in 1987. Four Chadian towns (Abeche, Faya-Largeau, Moundou, and Sarh) will be the first to benefit from this new RNTSAT system.

Briefs

Agropastoral Agreements

Two financial agreements, worth 1.35 billion CFA, were signed this morning between the governments of Chad and France. They are meant to finance some agropastoral development projects in southern Chad under the supervision of the National Pastoral and Village Water Supply Service. [Summary] [*AB1206062688 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 11 Jun 88*]

Egypt

Israel's Tamir Brings Proposals; All Rejected

JN1606170688 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 15 Jun 88 pp 1, 21

[Text] Cairo—Egypt has rejected three Israeli proposals on peaceful settlement efforts, the Palestinian uprising, and bilateral energy cooperation.

AL-ITTIHAD has learned that the atmosphere of the talks with Avraham Tamir, director general of the Israeli Foreign Ministry, who is currently visiting Cairo, were permeated with tension. The Egyptian officials stressed that the arrest of an Egyptian youth and the accusations made against him in Gaza last week, and the violation of Egyptian air space by an Israeli reconnaissance plane, have cast doubts on the sincerity of Israel's intentions regarding settlement efforts in the region.

AL-ITTIHAD also learned that Tamir is carrying with him proposals on holding a meeting among the Israeli, Egyptian, and Jordanian foreign ministers in Cairo to discuss means to support peace efforts in the region. Egypt has considered this an attempt to abort international efforts to hold an international conference for peace in the Middle East.

Informed sources told AL-ITTIHAD that Egyptian officials did not see anything new in the Israeli stand on peace in the region and the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories despite the fact that Cairo has stipulated that when he visits Egypt, Tamir should carry with him new ideas which are different from the intransigent Israeli stand. The sources added that Cairo rejected the attempts to circumvent the PLO by holding meetings with non-PLO sides because this is a waste of time and peace prospects, especially after the Arabs have adopted a unanimous stand authorizing the PLO to speak and negotiate in the name of Palestinians. The source said that this was a reply to a proposal carried by Tamir regarding Israel's readiness to meet some of the demands of the inhabitants of the occupied territories through negotiations with leaders in these territories and outside the PLO.

These sources revealed that Tamir is also carrying with him a plan for cooperation between Egypt and Israel in the field of energy. Egypt previously rejected this proposal when it ignored an Israeli offer to build a solar energy station in Cairo at a cost of $80 million.

Tamir arrived in Cairo the day before yesterday and was received at the airport by the Israeli ambassador in Cairo, Moshe Sason. None of the Egyptian officials at the Protocol Department of the Egyptian Foreign Ministry were there to receive him. This visit falls within the framework of a tour to inspect Israel's embassies in Africa and to organize the work of the Israeli Embassy in Cairo, especially after the transfer of Sason and the appointment of another ambassador.

Dismissed Foreign Ministry Official Interviewed

JN1306174388 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 11 Jun 88 p 25

[Excerpts] Cairo—AL-ANBA' office: The Egyptian Foreign Ministry, after intense pressure by the United States and Israel, has dismissed Ambassador Taha al-Farnawani from the directorship of the Palestine Desk on account of statements hostile to Israel's policies in the occupied land and his refusal to see Israeli officials and journalists.

AL-ANBA' has learned that the international commission investigating Israeli practices and human rights abuses in the occupied land visited Cairo on 1 June and met with an Egyptian delegation led by Al-Farnawani. He gave the commission a documented audio-visual report, backed by eyewitnesses, about Israel's practices in the occupied territory. Israel was incensed to learn that the Egyptians have had access to documents damning it before world public opinion. [passage omitted]

AL-ANBA' interviewed Ambassador Taha al-Farnawani to ask him about the reasons for his dismissal. He said:

A journalist came and asked me whether I had said that the 1979 treaty is not a peace treaty. I told him that Egyptian diplomacy sees the peace treaty as one of comprehensive, permanent peace in contrast to the Israeli concept of peace. Then I proceeded to list Israel's violations of this treaty. I cited Israel's refusal to return Dayr al-Sultan and the Coptic monastery in Jerusalem, which they seized and handed over to the Ethiopians in 1971 under the pretext that they were in a state of war with Egypt. The state of war now no longer exists and they have still not handed the monastery over. I also cited the annexation of Jerusalem and the declaration that it is the permanent capital of Israel, Israel's refusal to abide by UN Security Council resolutions on withdrawal from the West Bank and other occupied land, and its refusal to recognize Palestinian self-determination. The 1979 treaty provides for honoring self-determination. In its third appendix, the treaty also stipulates respect for fundemental human rights. Israel has failed to honor these conventions. And finally, what is happening in the occupied land of killings, torture, and administrative arrests. [passage omitted]

To counter Israeli claims that Al-Farnawani's statement only reflected his personal thinking and that he never made any statements against the peace between Egypt and Israel, an Egyptian Foreign Ministry official said that over the 7 years he directed the Palestinian Affairs Desk, Al-Farnawani never said anything about Egypt-PLO relations or the Palestinian cause without clearance by the Higher Committee of Palestine Affairs, where all state agencies are represented. The official dismissed Israeli charges that Al-Farnawani issued travel documents for Palestinian fedayeen to cross Egyptian territory into the occupied land.

Efforts to Free POW's in Iran Put on Hold

NC1506144288 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1415 GMT 15 Jun 88

[Text] Citing diplomatic sources in Cairo, the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM today stated that there are 13,000 Egyptian POW's in Iran. The Egyptian Government, the paper reports, has decided to freeze its efforts to free these prisoners until the end of the Iraq-Iran war.

Assembly Speaker, Delegation Return From Turkey

NC1606055688 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1938 GMT 15 Jun 88

[Text] Cairo, 15 Jun (MENA)—People's Assembly Speaker Dr Rif'at al-Mahjub and the delegation accompanying him returned to Cairo from Istanbul this evening at the conclusion of a week-long state visit to Turkey.

In an arrival statement, Dr al-Mahjub said he is bringing a verbal message to President Husni Mubarak from Turkish President Kenan Evren, which is in response to President Mubarak's written message. These contacts fall within the framework of continuous consultations between the Egyptian and Turkish presidents.

Al-Mahjub said he visited Turkey at the invitation of the speaker of the Turkish Grand National Assembly, and had extended to him a similar invitation to visit Egypt. Al-Mahjub pointed out that he had discussed with Turkish officials issues of mutual interest during the visit, especially the Palestinian issue and the Iraq-Iran war. This is the first visit to Turkey by an Egyptian parliamentary delegation.

Reportage on Visit of USSR Envoy Polyakov

Meets With Mubarak

NC1306094888 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0902 GMT 13 Jun 88

[Text] Cairo, 13 Jun (MENA)—Vladimir Polyakov, the Soviet leadership's special envoy, has stated that he has conveyed to President Husni Mubarak the best wishes

and greetings of the Soviet leadership, including those of Gorbachev personally. He said he also briefed his excellency on the results of the Soviet-U.S. summit in Moscow. Polyakov added that President Mubarak expressed his great appreciation for the results of the Moscow talks and announced his support for the continuation of similar talks for world peace. The president, Polyakov noted, asserted that there is complete understanding with regard to continuing the political dialogue between the USSR and Egypt on all issues, particularly the Middle East.

Polyakov noted that President Mubarak appreciates Soviet foreign policy initiatives and the international policies adopted by the USSR and the Soviet leadership under Gorbachev with regard to detente, reduced tension, and the establishment of peace.

He explained that his talks with Mubarak concerned bilateral relations and noted that the visit to Moscow of Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, opened a new chapter in these relations.

Ends Visit, Departs

NC1406084788 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0758 GMT 14 Jun 88

[Text] Cairo, 14 Jun (MENA)—Vladimir Polyakov, the Soviet leadership's special envoy, left Cairo this morning following a 4-day visit, during which he was received by President Muhammad Husni Mubarak.

During the visit, the Soviet envoy also met with a number of senior Egyptian officials. He was seen off by a number of Foreign Ministry officials.

Coal Export Agreement With USSR Reached

NC1406092288 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0755 GMT 14 Jun 88

[Text] Cairo, 14 Jun (MENA)—Egypt and the USSR have reached an agreement whereby the latter will export 250,000 tons of coal worth $17 million to Egypt for use at the Al-Nasr Company for Coke and Basic Chemical Industries in Hulwan.

Eng 'Adil al-Muzi, the company's chairman of the board of directors, returned from Moscow at dawn today after leading an industrial and trade delegation on a 10-day visit during which the agreement was signed. He stated that the value of this deal is 15 percent less than similar deals concluded in previous years.

Eng 'Adil al-Muzi added that agreement has also been reached providing for the Soviet Union to export equipment and spare parts worth 2 million pounds sterling to Egypt's coke-producing plants.

The company chairman also said that a Soviet industrial delegation will arrive in Cairo in August to discuss with the company officials the operational procedures for installing a fourth production unit at the company. The new unit will increase the company's annual coke production from the present 1 million tons to 3.5 million tons within 3 years.

Egypt and the USSR signed an agreement last year by which the USSR loaned 35 million pounds sterling for use in purchasing equipment for the production unit in question.

Electricity Protocol With Saudi Arabia Signed

NC1306182188 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1500 GMT 13 Jun 88

[Excerpt] Cairo, 13 Jun (MENA)—Egypt and Saudi Arabia today signed a technical cooperation protocol in the fields of electricity and energy. The signing ceremony took place at the conclusion of talks between Engineer 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Zamil, Saudi minister of industry and electricity, and Mahir Abazah, minister of electricity and energy. The protocol calls for promoting mutual cooperation in the fields of electricity and energy, with special emphasis on the production, transfer, and use of electrical energy, through contacts among the relevant agencies and institutions. It was also agreed to exchange data on the electrical linkage among the Arab countries and to cooperate in the planning of electrical networks, in the design, establishment, operation, and maintenance of electrical plants, and in channeling the use of electricity. [passage omitted]

Venezuelan President, Delegation Arrive 13 Jun

NC1306094288 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0915 GMT 13 Jun 88

[Text] Cairo, 13 Jun (MENA)—Venezuelan President Jaime Lusinchi arrived in Cairo at 1115 today for a 3-day visit. President Husni Mubarak met the Venezuelan president at the airport.

Mubarak Speaks at Dinner

NC1506154388 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1750 GMT 13 Jun 88

[Text] Cairo, 13 Jun (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak held a dinner banquet in honor of Venezuelan President Jaime Lusinchi and his accompanying delegation at the Presidential Palace this evening. The banquet was attended by Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi, the deputy prime ministers, the ministers, senior state officials, and a number of distinguished writers.

President Mubarak delivered a speech at the banquet in which he praised the strong relations between Egypt and Venezuela. The text of the president's speech follows:

Your Excellency President Jaime Lusinchi, esteemed guests of Egypt: Welcome to Egypt, which greatly appreciates the close cultural ties between it and the Latin American countries, led by your esteemed country. Venezuela has made great accomplishments in the sphere of

liberation, the affirmation of national sovereignty, the entrenchment of economic and intellectual independence as an indispensable basis for the achievement of political independence, the strengthening of the bridges of cooperation and understanding between the Latin American states and all Arab and African countries, and the promotion of the Nonaligned Movement's role to enable it to effectively contribute to the drafting of a new structure for international relations that could achieve peace and justice among all the peoples and nations and safeguard their march on the road of development and progress.

The strong relations between our two countries are not new; they are deeply rooted in history. They are represented in the Arab contribution to the enrichment of European civilization, which in turn contributed to the development of civilization in Latin America. They are also represented in the development of the national movement along parallel and close lines, prompting the Egyptian people to look with much admiration and respect at the struggle of the great Venezuelan hero Simon Bolivar, and to seek to immortalize him as a liberator of Latin American peoples and a man who expressed their sublime human hopes and aspirations.

On the other hand, Venezuela has been among the leading friendly states supporting the Egyptian people's struggle for freedom, peace, and progress. It has backed Egypt's efforts to defend the vital interests of the Arab and Islamic nations and to safeguard the legitimate rights of the peoples of Africa and the rest of the Third World states.

Therefore, it was natural for Egypt to be among the first Arab and African states to establish diplomatic relations with Venezuela. It was natural for Egypt to work for the establishment of bridges of cooperation with it in all the political, economic, and cultural fields, as well as for the coordination of joint positions on the international level.

Your Excellency President Lusinchi, we are following with interest the developments of the situation in the Central American region. We view with satisfaction the role which the Contadora Group and the "support group" have played in arriving at a practical and acceptable formula for the situation in that extremely important strategic region. They have provided a suitable atmosphere for settling problems by peaceful means, consistent with the nature of relations between the region's states and peoples and their unity of basic goals and interests.

In the wider scope, we look with interest to the development of events in Latin America as a whole and follow with great admiration the steps which the countries of this area are taking to intensify cooperation, deepen the solidarity between them in various fields, and overcome their differences on some secondary issues. Thus they are giving a good example to regional groups and organizations at this delicate stage of world development.

On the other hand, we share your interest in achieving a better balance in the world economic structure and in reaching a just solution to the problems facing the developing countries, particularly the problem of foreign debts, whose impact is felt by both the African and Latin American countries. This is occurring at a time when they are trying to push ahead with their economic development programs, modernize production systems, and improve the standard of services amid unsuitable international circumstances manifested in a drop in the prices of raw materials, a rise in the price of manufactured and agent materials, and an increase in the gap between the developed and developing countries in the absorption and development of modern technology.

We think that the ideal method to achieve this objective is through dialogue and cooperation, rather than through struggle and conflict. We are trying to ensure the success of the North-South dialogue, but the first step in this regard must be to intensify the dialogue between the South and South and achieve a unified stand that considers all legitimate interests and factors.

We have received with satisfaction the news that the two superpowers have reached specific agreements to limit nuclear weapons, reduce tension, and contribute to the solution of regional problems. We hope that the effects of this detente will reflect on the Third World countries and the process of their development and progress, which represents the basic challenge facing mankind at this time.

Friends, we in Egypt note with admiration and appreciation the positions that Venezuela is taking under the leadership of President Lusinchi on all Arab and African issues; its firm support for the right of peoples to self-determination and to shaping their future according to their independent will and free choice; its rejection of the policy of racial discrimination, suppression, and domination; its rejection of the logic of occupation, territorial expansion, and claims of superiority; and its positive and constructive contribution to the entrenchment of the principles which must govern international relations in the last part of the 20th century and the beginning of the 21st century.

There is no doubt that the talks which we will hold during this visit will leave a clear impact on the cooperation between the two countries in the coming years.

Allow me, brothers, to call on you to stand up as a salute to President Jaime Lusinchi and the friends who are here from Venezuela, and as a salute to the friendly people of Venezuela and the relations of friendship and understanding between our two peoples.

Cooperation Protocol Signed

NC1406122288 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1100 GMT 14 Jun 88

[Text] Cairo, 14 Jun (MENA)—An economic and technical cooperation protocol between Egypt and Venezuela was signed at the presidential office before noon today.

Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi signed the agreement on behalf of Egypt while Venezuelan Foreign Minister Carrillo Nava signed for his country. Dr Maurice Makramallah, minister of state for international cooperation, attended the signing ceremony. Dr Sidqi stated that the protocol provides for the coordination of bilateral cooperation in the scientific, agricultural, industrial, tourism, and petroleum fields, as well as for the establishment of economic relations and the exchange of technology and expertise.

Talks Held With Mubarak

NC1406121688 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1103 GMT 14 Jun 88

[Text] Cairo, 14 Jun (MENA)—Following a 2-hour session of talks between Egypt and Venezuela, Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif has stated that during the talks President Husni Mubarak addressed bilateral relations and the joint positions of the two countries on international and Middle East issues.

He added that the president also reviewed Egypt's reconstruction policy and the achievements of the first and second economic plans. He also referred to the challenges faced by the Egyptian economy in its determination to attain the required rates of development and for rebuilding the Egyptian infrastructure.

The minister of information reported that the Venezuelan president expressed appreciation for Egypt's role of constantly supporting movements of liberation and struggle against colonialism, and for President Mubarak's leadership and wise policies, both with regard to Egyptian economic and political progress and his adoption of regional and international and Arab causes. He also expressed appreciation for President Mubarak's role in seeking to attain a just peace, noting that these efforts have made his ideas influential on a global level, particularly in Third World countries.

The minister of information noted that during their meeting the Egyptian and Venezuelan delegations exchanged views on the Palestinian issue and efforts to convene an international conference to achieve a just peace. They also discussed the Lebanese crisis, the developments of the Iraq-Iran war, and the ramifications of these issues on world peace and the peoples of this region.

The minister added that President Mubarak explained the Arab situation and the importance of exploiting the Palestinian people's uprising to benefit the Palestinian issue and attain the Palestinian people's legitimate rights. President Mubarak also explained the U.S. initiative and the importance of exploiting its positive aspects and rectifying the negative ones. President Mubarak explained as well the Lebanese issue and the factors leading to its continuation.

The two presidents stressed their identity of views on these issues and the problems threatening peace, the issue of disarmament, the Afghanistan problem, and the Central American and African problems.

The information minister added that the Egyptian and Venezuelan delegations discussed various aspects of bilateral cooperation and the feasibility of regulating this through an agreement on technical cooperation and another one on economic, industrial, and commerical cooperation, particularly in the fields of energy and alternative resources. They also discussed the importance of coordinating the positions of the two countries in dealing with the world oil markets, in order to halt the drop in the price of oil, as the two countries are oil exporters.

Minister al-Sharif said that the two delegations also discussed the problem of world debt and the importance of coordinating stances on this issue—particularly with regard to the seven-country summit to be held in Toronto, Canada, to discuss the debt problems—involving the concerned countries in finding the appropriate solutions.

The minister added that the two delegations discussed cooperation in the commercial, industrial, agricultural, and tourism fields, offering school grants and scholarships for vocational development, dispatch of experts and technicians for consultations, and the exchange of necessary equipment and machines to implement technical programs and projects.

Foreign Minister Cited

NC1406130188 Cairo MENA in English 1213 GMT 14 Jun 88

[Text] Cairo, June 14 (MENA)—The foreign minister of Venezuela expressed his country's support of the convening of an international conference for peace as a means for solving the Palestinian question. He also voiced his country's backing to the United Nations resolutions aimed at solving the Palestinian cause.

In press statements following the end of the Egyptian-Venezuelan talks, the foreign minister said spheres of cooperation between Egypt and Venezuela are open notably in the fields of agriculture and technical cooperation.

Conclude Visit, Depart

NC1506080888 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0655 GMT 15 Jun 88

[Excerpt] Cairo, 15 Jun (MENA)—Venezuelan President Dr Jaime Lusinchi left Cairo for a private visit to Luxor this morning, following his official 3-day visit to Egypt.

During the visit, the Venezuelean president held talks with President Husni Mubarak on strengthening and further promoting bilateral cooperation in various fields. They also exchanged views on regional and international issues which concern both countries.

President Mubarak bade the Venezuelan guest an official farewell at the Al-Qubbah Republican Palace. [passage omitted]

Joint Communique Issued

NC1506112088 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0930 GMT 15 Jun 88

[Text] Cairo, 15 Jun (MENA)—Egypt and Venezuela have emphasized the importance of holding an international conference on peace in the Middle East under UN auspices, in which all the parties concerned should take part, in order to achieve a just and lasting peace in the region.

The two countries have expressed concern and regret over the ongoing war between Iraq and Iran. They have also stressed the need to implement UN Security Council Resolution 598, which calls for an end to the war, as well as the need to resolve the Lebanese issue.

This came in a press statement issued at the conclusion of Venezuelan President Jaime Lusinchi's visit to Cairo.

In the statement, the two countries reiterate their support for efforts by the Contadora and other groups to arrive at a peaceful and lasting solution for Central America's problems through negotiations.

The two countries strongly condemned the policy of racial discrimination adopted by the South African Government and its illegal occupation of Namibia. They stressed the need to grant Namibia its independence, and voiced support for international efforts to bring to an end the policy of racial discrimination in South Africa.

The two countries declared their satisfaction with the superpower summit meetings at which limitations on the arms race and the resolution of regional issues were discussed. They also denounced all forms of terrorism.

Egypt and Venezuela expressed deep concern over the issue of foreign debts in the developing countries and called for such issues to be dealt with through cooperation between advanced and developing countries.

The two countries underlined the importance of African-Latin American dialogue, which will promote understanding between the various institutions in both continents.

The text of the statement follows:

In response to an invitation by President Muhammad Husni Mubarak of the Arab Republic of Egypt, President Jaime Lusinchi of Venezuela paid an official visit to Egypt from 13 to 15 June 1988.

The Venezuelan president was accompanied by a high-level delegation which included Mr Carrillo Nava, the foreign minister, and a number of high-ranking government officials and representatives of the private sector.

The talks held during the visit were marked by an atmosphere of cordiality and understanding, reflecting the friendship linking both countries. The two presidents exchanged views on international economic and political issues and discussed bilateral relations. They renewed their commitment to the principles and objectives of the UN Charter. They reiterated that the foreign policies of their countries are based on the solid principles of international law, which emphasize respect for state sovereignty, self-determination for all nations, observation of human rights, and noninterference in the internal affairs of other countries, as well as respect for the territorial integrity and independence of other states and belief in the peaceful settlement of regional and international disputes.

During their review of the international situation, the two presidents voiced their concern over the arms race, particularly in the nuclear field, and over the situations that are threatening world peace and security, especially in areas of tension and existing conflicts. They also expressed satisfaction with the summit meetings on disarmament between the two superpowers, and with the negotiations to find solutions for regional and international conflicts. They expressed the hope that the summit meetings and negotiations between the two superpowers would continue and be successful.

Following President Muhammad Husni Mubarak's comprehensive analysis of the Middle East situation, the two presidents agreed on the importance of holding an international conference for peace in the Middle East under UN auspices and with the participation of all the parties concerned. The purpose of this conference would be to reach a just and lasting peace in the region, based on respect for the principle of self-determination and the right of all countries in the area to live within their recognized borders, in accordance with Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. In this connection, the Venezuelan president praised Egypt's intensive efforts to attain a peaceful solution for the problem.

The two presidents expressed concern and regret over the continued Iraq-Iran war. They stressed the importance of exerting international efforts to put an end to this war on the basis of Security Council Resolution 598.

Regarding Lebanon, the two parties expressed interest in reaching a solution acceptable to all the parties concerned, without foreign intervention, that would put an end to the civil war tragedy, preserve Lebanon's political

independence, national sovereignty, and territorial integrity, and strengthen unity and national reconciliation under the country's legitimate government. They called for the complete withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanese territories.

Following an in-depth analysis of the dimensions of Central America's problems by the Venezuelan president, President Mubarak praised Venezuela's activities and effective efforts through the Contadora Group to establish peace in Central America. The two parties reiterated their view that Central America must be maintained as a zone of peace so that the countries there can develop and fulfill the aims of peace, democracy, and social justice. In this respect, the two presidents reiterated their support for efforts by the Contadora Group and the Support Group to reach a peaceful and lasting solution for Central America's problems through negotiations, and for the Guatemala agreement on peace in the region, which was signed by the presidents of the Central American countries in August 1987.

The two parties strongly condemned South Africa's policy of racial discrimination and apartheid, its continued illegal occupation of Namibia, and its repeated military attacks on its neighbors. The two parties stressed their full support for international efforts to end the policy of racial discrimination and to establish a free democratic society in South Africa that would be based on respect for the majority and for human rights and dignity. They called for independence for Namibia in accordance with UN Resolution 435.

The two presidents also condemned all forms of terrorism and expressed their willingness to help eliminate it.

Mindful of the gravity and severity of the drug problem, the two sides reaffirmed the determination of their governments to cooperate bilaterally and multilaterally to combat drugs and prevent their production and smuggling.

The two presidents paid great attention to world economic problems. They expressed their great concern about foreign debt problems, which have serious political and social dimensions threatening development and stability in several developing countries. They demanded that these problems be confronted in a context of cooperation and through the joint efforts of advanced and developing countries.

The two sides commended efforts by Latin American states, through the Cartagena group and the Acapulco summit, to arrive at a solution to this problem, as well as the efforts by African states, through the OAU, to face the burdens of foreign debts amidst the critical economic situation in Africa.

The two presidents also noted that dialogue with advanced states on important economic topics is foundering. They called for a discussion of ways to deal with international economic issues and changes. They demanded that dialogue with the advanced countries be held in a context of cooperation and an atmosphere of confidence, so that the developing countries may have a share in an international economic system that will be more fair and equitable.

The two sides agreed about the importance of the role played by the Group of 77 in supporting the South-South dialogue with a view to taking unified stands in North-South dialogue. They also stressed the importance of African-Latin American dialogue, which would promote understanding among institutions and individuals on the two continents.

With regard to bilateral relations, the two presidents expressed satisfaction with their present course, noting however, that there is potential in both countries for further cooperation in many fields. In this respect, the two sides agreed to intensify existing bilateral contacts in the petroleum sphere and to unify their stands in order to guard against the collapse of oil prices and to establish stability and continuity on the international oil market.

The two countries also stressed the importance of joint action and mutual consultation to enhance their cooperation in tourism through the exchange of visits by groups and tourism officials to increase tourism and forge closer ties between the two peoples so that they may become better acquainted with each other's ancient and modern cultures.

An agreement was also signed during the visit for the purpose of boosting economic relations and technical cooperation. The agreement provides for cooperation in the fields of energy and alternative sources of power, agriculture and agricultural industries, industry, trade, transport and communications, and tourism.

The two presidents expressed the belief that this visit will help to increase and develop understanding and cooperation between the two friendly countries.

At the end of the visit President Lusinchi expressed profound gratitude for the warm welcome accorded him and his accompanying delegation during their stay in the Arab Republic of Egypt. He extended an invitation to President Mubarak to visit Venezuela. The invitation has been accepted with great satisfaction.

Sidqi, Australian Delegation Discuss Cooperation

NC1606202588 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 16 Jun 88

[Text] Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi has met with an Australian parliamentary delegation currently visiting Cairo. The conferees discussed aspects of cooperation between Egypt and Australia in various fields and reviewed international issues, especially the Middle East situation and the call for an international conference for peace in the region.

Arab Monetary Fund Chairman Holds Meetings

NC1606182788 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1555 GMT 16 Jun 88

[Excerpts] Cairo, 16 Jun (MENA)—'Abdallah al-Quwayz, chairman of the board of directors of the Arab Monetary Fund, left Cairo this afternoon after a 3-day visit to Egypt during which he was received by President Husni Mubarak, Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi, and Central Bank Governor Salah Hamid. [passage omitted]

Al-Quwayz said that during his visit he held talks with Egyptian economic officials which dealt with the technical and financial aspects of the decision to restore Egypt's membership in the Fund. He added that he had briefed these officials on the Fund's future programs and plans, and had closely reviewed the economic situation in the Arab Republic of Egypt. [passage omitted]

African Development Fund Allocates Loans

NC1706082988 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0715 GMT 17 Jun 88

[Excerpt] Cairo, 17 Jun (MENA)—The African Development Bank has approved the allocation of 325 million accounting units, $422.5 million, as loans to Egypt during 1988. The loans will be used to finance economic and social development projects. A source in the Central Bank has stated that the loans that Egypt has obtained from the African Development Bank total $448.5 million. The loans were used to finance various energy, agricultural development, sewage, and rural development projects. [passage omitted]

AL-JUMHURIYAH Welcomes Shultz Mission

NC1706065988 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2110 GMT 16 Jun 88

[Text] Cairo, 16 Jun (MENA)—The AL-JUMHURIYAH newspaper welcomes the resumption of U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz' mission, which it describes as difficult and decisive. It welcomes Shultz' fifth tour of the region, to be undertaken with a view to reaching a durable and just settlement that will guarantee the Palestinian people's legitimate rights.

In its Friday editorial, the paper expresses hope that, during his forthcoming tour, Shultz will be able to overcome the obstacles which Israel has placed on the path to peace. The paper expects Shultz to succeed in his upcoming mission, because it is based on objective elements, foremost of which are the U.S. Administration's enthusiasm and eagerness to keep its peace initiative alive, the attention which the Middle East issue enjoyed at the recent Moscow summit, and the eagerness of both U.S. President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to dispatch high-level envoys to the region.

The paper underlines the importance of the continued Palestinian uprising which, it asserts, has changed, whether directly or indirectly, the concept of the Palestinian cause and the thinking of many parties.

The paper says: We will not forget the driving force represented by the world's insistence that an end be put to the dilemma of occupation and to the continued Israeli violence and arrogance.

In conclusion, the paper lauds Egypt's diplomatic stand, which is based on a realistic vision, and continuous endeavors to assert the positive aspects of the initiatives aimed at giving momentum to the peace process and ensuring that the issue is kept within the parameters of the priorities of the superpowers and the entire world community.

Muslim Brotherhood Urges Support for Uprising

PM1506101988 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 7 Jun 88 pp 1, 2

[Unattributed report: "Muslim Brotherhood Guide Urges Arabs To Back Palestinians"]

[Text] Muslim Brotherhood General Guide Muhammad Hamid Abu al-Nasr has sent an open letter to the Arab presidents and kings on the occasion of the Arab summit conference in Algiers. He focused in his letter on the need to back the Palestinians:

In the circumstances our nation is experiencing—as the Zionists squat in our holy land in Palestine, befouling the point from which the Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him, made his midnight journey to heaven, and violating the sanctity of the Al-Aqsa Mosque—I am writing to remind you of the serious, historic stage our primary cause, the Palestinian cause, is witnessing.

We, the Muslim Brotherhood, believe that the Palestinian cause is a distinctive Islamic cause. It is a trust that must be assumed by all Muslims, both the rulers and the ruled, since it is part of our faith and the lifeline to our hearts, not just a piece of land the usurpers have occupied. Legitimate historic facts confirm day after day that the Zionists harbor nothing but spite and deception toward us and all mankind. Above all, it was they who killed their prophets. In a believer they respect not the ties of kinship or covenant. [Koranic verse] They shed the blood of the innocent in Qibyah, Dayr Yasin, Khan Yunis, as well as Sabra and Shatila. And here they are using all methods of humiliation, starvation, detention, and expulsion against our kinfolk in Palestine, massacring them and breaking their limbs. But our people are confronting them armed with nothing but stones, causing their faces to bleed to humiliate their arrogance, declaring to the world that belief cannot be defeated.

The Palestinian people—men, women, old, young, and children—stood united to declare their rejection of the Zionist occupation and their determination to liberate

their territory and protect their faith and holy places, thus unmasking the ugly Zionist face and refuting the lie of the democratic state which claims to protect human liberties and rights. The Palestinian people have proved to us all that the right way to liberate Palestine is jihad, and jihad only. As for settlements, initiatives, visits, and agreements, they lead to nothing but strengthening the position of the Zionists and prolongation of the Palestinian people's suffering. Besides, the Zionists do not fulfill any promise or honor any agreement.

The Islamic peoples and the peoples of the world support the Palestinians in their uprising against the Zionist enemy and hope that your conference will adopt a serious stand backing the uprising and the Palestinian people, in order to make them feel secure on their own territory and recover their rights in full.

The Muslim Palestinian people have chosen their road and decided to continue the uprising until victory is achieved, God willing. Arabs and Muslims as a whole are now facing a historic responsibility regarding support for this blessed uprising. So will you who assume the trust of leadership declare your firm stand against the Zionist occupation and make a historic decision by announcing comprehensive jihad mobilization and channeling all resources into the battle of destiny?

And will you protect the stones uprising with the huge resources God has placed at your disposal in order to achieve for the nation a mighty victory? The promise of Almighty God of victory over the Jews must be realized. We pray to God that this generation, under your leadership, will have the honor of realizing this divine promise. May God grant you success.

[Signed] Muhammad Hamid Abu al-Nasr

General Guide of the Muslim Brotherhood

Libya

U.S. Administration's Terrorism Claims Rejected

LD1606105188 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 2315 GMT 15 Jun 88

[Text] The U.S. Administration is repeating its old claims by dragging the name of the Great Jamahiriyah into what it used to call terrorist incidents. It instigated its media to repeat these claims according to the usual old tune about Libyan responsibility for a number of attacks against U.S. interests in numerous parts of the world. This time, it was THE WASHINGTON TIMES' turn. Yesterday it published an article in which it listed these attacks, and began and ended the article by saying that Libya was behind these attacks.

The international affairs editor comments on this:

First, we have previously stressed, and we stress again, that if anyone is responsible for exposing U.S. interests to any harm, it is the U.S. Administration. The Great Jamahiriyah is not responsible for reactions to the policies of persecution and hegemony practiced by the U.S. Administration against numerous peoples and regimes.

Second, the U.S. Administration was angered by what is recorded on the land of the Great Jamahiriyah with regard to victories for freedom and historic human rights achievements, which are represented by the Great Green Document for Human Rights in the Era of Masses. Before this advanced premise of freedom, the United States realizes that it has been exposed. What it used to say about human rights has been ridiculed and it has been exposed to the world as an entity, which basically was established by the destruction of human rights, to the point of annihilating others for the sake of U.S. interests.

Third, what THE WASHINGTON TIMES published yesterday is a repeat of what the U.S. newspapers used to publish in an attempt to distort the pan-Arab and international liberating role of the Great Jamahiriyah, and the results of our effective presence in the various Arab and international arenas. The U.S. Administration, repeating itself like a broken musical record, also aims to draw world attention to matters which the world began to understand despite lies, deception, and inversion of the truth, which is a basic character of the policies of the U.S. Administration and its current President Reagan.

The editor concluded his commentary by saying:

The war of lies and deception against the Great Jamahiriyah, for which the U.S. Administration recruited all its media, political, and intelligence sources, is another source of terrorism practiced officially by this administration against the Libyan Arab people. We firmly reject this style and confront it. We draw the attention of the world to it and warn against its dangers in falsifying the truth and its adverse results on international relations. By the same token, we stress that all forms of U.S. terrorism will not frighten us. We will never place ourselves in a position in which we deviate from our firm principles for which the Great Al-Fatih Revolution has risen. These principles are, briefly, the achievement of Arab unity, liberation of the Arab nation, and the establishment of an Arab power which will impose respect on this nation and will confirm its right to live in a dignified and free manner on earth and under the sun. The struggle continues for the victory of freedom everywhere on earth.

Our pan-Arab, unitary, and human struggle is not dependent on any other consideration. It stems from the legitimacy of our right to a free and honorable life, the principles of which we ourselves established. It also stems from our good convictions of struggle, away from material and moral methods of hegemony.

Official Seeks Al-Qadhdhafi-Habre Meeting

LD1606141388 Paris International Service in French 1245 GMT 16 Jun 88

[Text] Libya is trying to extricate itself from the Chadian quagmire. This was already known, but there are now new indications of this with the reorganization by Colonel al-Qadhdhafi of his armed forces over the past few months. He has set up a national service and has created three regional commands, including that of Fazzan in the south which extends as far as the famous Aozou Strip. He has also entrusted one of his own men, Col (Mas'ud), with a very special mission, according to Farida Ayari, our special correspondent in Libya:

[Ayari] According to sources close to the Libyan regime, Col (Mas'ud) has the delicate task of organizing a meeting between Col al-Qadhdhafi and President Hissein Habre. According to the same sources, things have gone as far as choosing a capital where the meeting is to take place. Tripoli would like it to be Algiers, but the Chadians are reported to have refused because the Algerian capital hosted Goukouni Oueddei for long periods at the peak of the last war. Ndjamena is reported to not be against Libreville because President Omar Bongo chairs the OAU ad hoc committee on the Chadian-Libyan conflict, but this time it is the Libyans who are reportedly against the idea.

It is also being said that steps are being made toward a compromise which might lead to the choice of Bamako as a venue, a logical choice when one considers that it is the capital of the current OAU president. Be that as it may, there are signs that Col al-Qadhdhafi is continuing his efforts to put an end to a conflict which has cost him a lot of money and many men, and which, above all, has given him a disastrous reputation, both in Libya and abroad.

Al-Qadhdhafi Meets PFLP, Lebanese CP Officials

LD1606150488 Tripoli JANA in English 1421 GMT 16 Jun 88

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Sayf [June] 16, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The leader of the revolution has received Messrs Taysir Qubba'h Politburo member of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and George Hawi, sec. gen. of the Lebanese Communist Party.

Morocco

Maghreb Summit Results, Prospects Examined

PM1606150688 Casablanca LE MATIN DU SAHARA in French 11 Jun 88 pp 1, 2

[Ahmed Alaoui editorial: "Building the Greater Arab Maghreb, Beginning at the Beginning"]

[Text] Exactly 30 years ago, in 1958, the big Maghreb liberation movements meeting in Tangiers proclaimed their intention to work for Maghreb unity. This determination has been expressed publicly and solemnly on several occasions by the Maghreb leaders.

There has therefore always been close cooperation both at the top, among heads of state, and at grass-roots level, at the level of political movements and people's associations and groupings because, as a famous politician said, unity can always be achieved by the grass roots, often by the grass roots and the leadership, but never by the leadership alone. A union among states presupposes the peoples' support, because unity can only be the result of concerted action by the peoples and governments, but there is no doubt that the ties which are woven in social, cultural, philosophical, artistic, and sporting associations create a favorable climate for union and unity.

On Friday 10 June, the Arab Maghreb heads of state met in Algiers and laid the foundations for building the united Greater Arab Maghreb. They decided to set up an inter-Maghreb commission with the job of defining the requirements for Greater Arab Maghreb unity. This commission will comprise prominent people from the Maghreb countries appointed by the heads of state. This inter-Maghreb commission will meet in Algiers on Wednesday 13 July.

We must therefore, as always, begin at the beginning, in other words at the grass-roots level. There is no point in talking about a confederation, federation, union, or even a merger unless something practical is first achieved at the grass-roots level. To achieve this, there is, moreover, a whole series of simple and practical decisions which would be very easy to make because they cost nothing, and do not require any sacrifices, or any abandonment or limitation of sovereignty.

The first of these measures is the free circulation of men, goods, the written word, and ideas. Every Maghrebi must be able to travel in the Maghreb without any problem simply by showing his identity card.

The second measure is the free circulation of newspapers, books, and magazines so that everybody knows what is happening in the neighboring countries, to ensure that all citizens are informed about the Maghreb and about the countries which form it.

The third measure, which is also fundamental, is the freedom of citizens to settle in neighboring countries. A Maghreb residence convention must bind the Maghreb countries to ensure that all their nationals, be they veterinary surgeons, doctors, or architects, for instance, can settle in the country of their choice, without any difficulty or restriction.

The fourth measure is free trade—a vital element of economic unity. Indeed, it is necessary for goods to be able to circulate as freely as men. That would create one big Maghreb market which, in the year 2000, would comprise more than 100 million consumers, in other words one third of the West European population. Of course, this economic building must be aimed at harmonization, and each country should be able to specialize in products according to its potential. In short, we must

revive the principles which governed the creation of the Maghreb Coordination Bureau in the industrial sphere. Such a measure would enable Maghreb industries to find a valuable market of 100 million consumers on their doorstep, whereas the main obstacle to their development is the limited nature of national markets, small-scale production, and competition.

A big Maghreb market would in particular enable us to solve the problems caused by EEC restrictions on sensitive products like early fruit and vegetables, citrus fruits, and textiles.

This would make the Maghreb a serious, strong, and influential partner instead of just a "client." It would be able to assert itself because it would be an equal partner rather than a beggar.

These are a few simple ideas which can be adopted and implemented without any debate or difficulty by the inter-Maghreb commission which the Maghreb heads of state have decided to form and which will meet in Algiers on Wednesday 13 July and they are sensible and realistic measures, which are vital because there is no alternative.

Indeed, we must examine the example set by Europe which took the necessary measures to build the economic and political community and the big single market, which will be created by 1992. But, to do this, it had to start with practical measures.

These measures, which strike us as realistic and simple, are the only ones which will enable us to give a future to the objective which is so dear to all our peoples, to transcend the notion of borders, to overfly them, and fulfill the grandiose, brilliant, and inspiring ambition of building the united Greater Arab Maghreb.

Sudan

Al-Mirghani on Ties With Gulf States, Ethiopia

LD1606094988 Kuwait KUNA in English 0820 GMT 16 Jun 88

[Text] Kuwait, June 16 (KUNA)—Chairman of the Sudanese Supreme Council Ahmad al-Mirghani has stressed that his country and the Arab Gulf states are bound by common destiny.

In an interview with daily AL-SIYASAH, published here today, Al-Mirghani said "We are obliged with our Arab brethren in the Gulf...Kuwait and Saudi Arabia...We are bound by common destiny and goal."

Commenting on his country's relations with Kuwait, the Sudanese leader praised existing ties between the two countries and hoped that his highness the amir of Kuwait would visit Sudan.

On Sudan's contribution to the Algiers extraordinary Arab summit, he pointed out that Sudan has played a reconciliatory role, adding that part of the summit's final communique, which condemned Iranian hostilities against Kuwait and Saudi Arabia had been taken from Sudan's address to the conference.

Hailing outcome of the summit, which, he said promises fulfillment of an Arab concordance stategy, Al-Mirghani noted that appropriate support to the Palestinian uprising was secured.

When asked if "Sudan's positive stance towards Iraq, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia will affect the good relations between Sudan and Iran," the Sudanese leader responded "please do not say that our relations with Iran are excellent."

Asked to comment on the recent initiative of John Garang, leader of the rebel movement in south Sudan, he said "until now, we have not received this inititive officially," adding, we welcome such initiative on negotiations between Khartoum and the insurgents.

Commenting on relations between Khartoum and Addis Ababa, Al-Mirghani said relations between the two capitals have improved lately, adding that negotiations between the two sides are under way.

The Sudanese leader expressed readiness to mediate between the Eritreans and the Ethiopians to create the appropriate atmosphere for negotiations and denied that the Eritrean revolution launches attacks against the Ethiopian Army from Sudanese territories.

Defense Minister Outlines Threats to Security

EA1606195188 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1400 GMT 16 Jun 88

[Text] General 'Abd al-Majid Hamid Khalil, retired, minister of defense, [title as received] has declared that the Armed Forces are currently making plans to recapture all stations captured by the rebel movement so far. His excellency stressed that the armed forces will continue forcefully and determinedly to resist the rebel movement until the political authority opts for peace. He said military operations were confused during the transitional period because of [words indistinct] in the issue of war and peace. Gen 'Abd al-Majid, retired, declared that the armed forces have so far succeeded in eliminating more than half of the 30,000-40,000 strong forces of the rebel movement. He said the movement's current tendency to concentrate its efforts on Equatoria Region is because the region borders four African states.

In his address to the Constituent Assembly last Monday morning [13 June], the defense minister dealt with internal and external threats to security. He explained that the war in the south is the greatest threat to security, as well as the migration of a number of people and

external threats from some neighboring states. In addition to these phenomena are violations of democratic practice in the form of demonstrations, strikes, smuggling, and similar economic crimes.

Referring to armed robberies in the Darfur region, the defense minister referred to three groups as the culprits. One group infiltrated from the Chadian border to steal camels. The second was from the (Bidayyat) tribe which carried out operations to compensate for the camels they lost. The third group were the gangs which raided cities. He said that the number killed so far in such armed robberies is 2,000 citizens and 72 members of the regular forces.

Cites Dispute With Libya

JN1606180888 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1707 GMT 16 Jun 88

[Text] Khartoum, 16 Jun (SUNA)—Defense Minister 'Abd al-Majid Hamid Khalil has said that the armed forces have been ordered to deal firmly with any foreign military presence in the region. Commenting on the Constituent Assembly's deliberations on his recent statement on the country's security situation, the minister said there are no foreign forces in Darfur. He pointed out that the internal Chad conflict and the Libyan-Chad dispute were major contributing factors to the security deterioration there. His excellency said we want peace without surrender and peace with our neighbors means peace for us. Steering clear of international alignments would bring peace to all of us, he added.

Omdurman Reports Price Rises of Commodities

EA1606204188 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1400 GMT 16 Jun 88

[Excerpts] It has been decided in the new budget to raise the prices of the following goods: tobacco, marble, gypsum, raw lime, glass, perfumes, cosmetics, sponge, ice cream, and aluminum doors and windows. It has also been decided to exempt rice, lentils, and coffee from import duty and to reduce duty on imported tea by 50 percent. It was also decided that the state should continue to control the prices of basic commodities, and a list of ten, such as calico, fertilizers, matches, and sauces, has been prepared for experimental price control. The effects will be analyzed after a certain period of time. Other commodities will be left for market forces to determine their prices in accordance with needs and demand. [passage omitted]

Direct tax estimates totalled 1.57 billion Sudanese pounds, compared with 550 million last year. As for indirect taxes, the estimates have increased to 3.029 billion as a result of the increase in revenue from import and excise duty and the increase in imports and industrial production input.

The estimates for revenues other than taxes total 1.865 billion pounds, an increase of 38.3 percent over last year.

Rebels Report Ambushes, Garrison Attack

EA1606160988 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 16 Jun 88

[Excerpts] Sixty-three enemy soldiers have been killed, and 218 others were seriously injured in two separate ambushes on 9 and 10 June 1988 by combined SPLA forces of Winch, Lual, (?March) two, Tahrir, and Jamus of Jokau task forces under the direct operational command of Lieutenant Colonel (Thomas Totguet) and overall command of Alternate Commander Peter Panom Panyipiny.

The first ambush took place at the (Piyam) forest about 40 miles west of Akobo while the second ambush was at Riam forest about 20 miles south of Akobo. Among the dead enemy soldiers were four captains, one first lieutenant and two lieutenants. Correspondents say that the enemy soldiers also suffered widespread damages in military equipment. [passage omitted]

In a similar development SPLA forces around Akobo under the overall command of Alternate Commander Peter Panom Panyipiny also attacked Akobo enemy garrison on 9 and 10 June 1988 and inflicted untold casualities on the enemy in both men and material. [passage omitted]

Tunisia

Baccouche Receives Kuwaiti Commerce Minister

LD1606204588 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 16 Jun 88

[Excerpt] This afternoon, Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche received at the government palace in Casbah Faysal al-Khalid, Kuwaiti minister of commerce and industry, and the delegation accompanying him on his visit to Tunisia. Economy Minister Slaheddine Ben Mbarek and the ambassadors of both countries were present.

Later, Faysal al-Khalid said that the meeting covered bilateral relations and ways to develop cooperation in commercial and economic relations between the two countries in the interest of both peoples. The Kuwaiti minister added that his meeting with the prime minister also enabled him to discuss ways to expand this cooperation to embrace the Maghreb region, particularly after the Maghreb summit which opens up new prospects. He noted in this respect that the potential in this important part of the Arab homeland will reinforce the economic, commerical and industrial bridges between the Mashriq and the Maghreb. [passage omitted]

Kuwait Reports Visit

LD1506164588 Kuwait KUNA in English 1400 GMT 15 Jun 88

[By Nasar al-Tourah]

[Text] Tunis, June 15 (KUNA)—Kuwaiti Minister of Commerce and Industry Faysal al-Khalid Wednesday arrived here continuing a tour that started June 6 and took him so far to Switzerland, Morocco and Algeria.

Upon arrival, Al-Khalid, who is on few days official visit to Tunisia, told KUNA that his visit is in response to an invitation by his Tunisian counterpart to discuss bilateral relations.

The Kuwaiti official added that an agreement between Kuwait and Tunisia will be signed to promote cooperation in the fields of economy, commerce and investments.

Regarding his visit to Algeria that was concluded today, Al-Khalid said that he met with the Algerian premier who expressed his government's readiness to foster economic relations with Kuwait.

He also added that he held talks with a number of Algerian ministry [word indistinct] resulting in signing a memorandum of understanding on different aspects of cooperation and an agreement on commercial cooperation, and promotion of tourism and investments.

Al-Khalid is accompanied by a delegation comprising senior officials from the Ministries of Commerce and Industry, Finance, Foreign Affairs and Kuwait fund for Arab Economic Development.

The Kuwaiti minister's last stop will be Sofia, where he is scheduled to arrive on Saturday to attend the 3rd meeting of the commerce and economy cooperation committee between Kuwait and Bulgaria.

Saddam Husayn Presides Over Cabinet Meeting

JN1206204188 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1900 GMT 12 Jun 88

[Text] President leader Saddam Husayn has presided over a cabinet meeting. During the meeting, the issues and topics listed on the agenda were discussed, and the necessary decisions and measures were taken. The meeting was attended by Taha Yasin Ramadan, first deputy prime minister; Staff General 'Adnan Khayrallah, deputy commander in chief of the Armed Forces and defense minister; Sa'dun Hammadi, RCC member and National Assembly speaker; Ahmad Husayn, head of the presidential office; and the ministers.

Chairs RCC-Ba'th Meeting

JN1606180188 Baghdad INA in English 1727 GMT 16 Jun 88

[Text] Baghdad, June 16, INA—President Saddam Husayn this evening presided over a joint meeting of the Revolution Command Council and the regional leadership of the Arab Ba'th Socialist Party.

During the meeting, results were reviewed of the heroic battles of the Iraqi Armed Forces repulsing and crushing the Iranian enemy aggression in Al-Shalamjah [Shalamcheh] sector which was after Iraq's national territory in east of Al-Basrah at the advice of international forces known to Iraq. The aggression was aiming at harming the great gains attained by the revolution and the new state of Iraqi and Arab growth following the great victories in the battles of "Blessed Ramadan's" and "On God We Depended" which led to the liberation of Al-Faw and Al-Shalamjah and caused the continued deterioration and collapse of the Iranian side on various levels.

The joint meeting also reviewed results of the great victories achieved in the battles of "Muhammad, Prophet of God" and the liberation of mountainous peaks which confirmed the state of deterioration in the entire Iranian armed troops along the battle front and also the state of disintegration between the ruling clique in Iran and the Iranian peoples.

The joint meeting highly appreciated efficiency of the performance of the gallant Iraqi Armed Forces in repulsing the enemy and liberating the national territory and also the high preparedness to confront any attempt against Iraq's territory and sovereignty along the battlefronts.

The joint meeting stressed significance of deepening the spirit of awareness and strenuous work on all levels and in all political, psychological and economic fields and masses mobilization for they are the sole path for confronting all forms of conspiring, wherever they come from, and the certain guarantee for preserving the revolution and carrying on the state of growth and progress enjoyed by the Iraqi people and the Arab nation during this stage.

'Aziz Meets UK, USSR, PRC Envoys at UN

JN1606085688 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0705 GMT 16 Jun 88

[Text] United Nations, 16 Jun (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, held a series of separate consultations here last night with UN representatives of Britain, the USSR, the PRC, and the nonaligned states.

An authoritative source has told INA that during the meetings, Tariq 'Aziz discussed Iraq-Iran war developments and efforts to implement UN Security Council Resolution 598 to end the war. Talks also dealt with the current situation in the Middle East and bilateral cooperation between Iraq and these states. The INA correspondent said Tariq 'Aziz held these consultations with Britain's UN Representative Sir Crispin Tickell; USSR's UN Representative Aleksandr Blonochov [name as received]; PRC's UN Representative Li Luye; and representatives of the nonaligned states.

Meets Egyptian Counterpart

JN1606170988 Baghdad INA in English 1625 GMT 16 Jun 88

[Text] United Nations, June 16, INA—Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz met today with his Egyptian counterpart, 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid for a second round of discussions on developments in the Iraq-Iran war, the Middle East situation and topics of bilateral interest.

The two ministers, who are in New York participating in the General Asembly's special session on disarmament, met earlier this week for similar discussions.

Oil Minister Returns From OPEC Conference

JN1606091688 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0710 GMT 16 Jun 88

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Jun (INA)—Oil Minister 'Isam 'Abd al-Rahim returned here from Vienna today after participating in meetings of OPEC's ordinary semiannual conference which concluded there yesterday.

The 4-day conference discussed developments in the world oil market and fixing OPEC's production ceiling. It also discussed fixing the OPEC member states' quotas in the second half of this year as well as the supply and demand outlook for OPEC oil. Also under discussion were reasons for the fluctuating oil prices and ways to stabilize the oil market.

The conference elected Indonesian Mining and Energy minister Dr Subroto as OPEC secretary general for 3 years as of 1 July. It also decided to extend the term of Iraq's Dr Fadil al-Jalabi as OPEC assistant secretary general until the end of next June.

Trade Minister Meets With Brazilian Counterpart

JN1706115088 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1040 GMT 17 Jun 88

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Jun (INA)—Economic talks between Iraq and Brazil began here today. During the talks, which were led on the Iraqi side by Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih and on the Brazilian side by Deputy Foreign Minister Paulo Tarso Flecha de Lima, they discussed the promotion of economic, trade, and technical relations between the two countries.

Talks also dealt with the phases of implementing the recommendations and resolutions adopted in the joint minutes of the sixth session of the Iraqi-Brazilian joint committee for economic, trade, and technical cooperation as well as the joint minutes of the trade talks signed between Iraq and Brazil on 7 December 1987. The Iraqi side in the talks comprised delegates from the Ministries of Transport and Communications, Housing and Reconstruction, Trade, Agriculture and Irrigation, and Finance. The Brazilian side comprised delegates from the Ministries of Commerce and Foreign Affairs as well as the concerned establishments and companies.

Earlier today, the Iraqi minister met with the Brazilian deputy foreign minister. They discussed economic relations between Iraq and Brazil and ways to promote them.

Reportage on Gulf War Combat Activities

Northern Traverse Liberated

JN1606142488 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1303 GMT 16 Jun 88

[All heights names as received]

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Jun (WAKH)—The Iraqi forces liberated the Ahmad Rumi traverse ['Aridah] in the northern sector of operations following a successful offensive at dawn today.

'Abd al-Jabbar Muhsin, the Iraqi military spokesman, told the WAKH correspondent in Baghdad that the Ahmad Rumi traverse is one of the largest traverses in the Mawand [placename as received] area in the northern governorate of Al-Sulaymaniyah.

The I Army Corps forces liberated five traverses of strategic importance in the same area last Tuesday.

Mushin said that the Iraqi forces are currently liquidating some small scattered pockets in the area.

Military experts here agree that the success of the Iraqi forces in controlling these important traverses open a wide door for purging the area of Iranian military presence.

The military newspaper AL-QAIDISIYAH described here today the recent Iraqi attacks as a series of offensive missions aimed at driving the enemy out of the parts it captured in previous battles.

Following battles which lasted 16 hours last Tuesday, the I Army Corps forces liberated the following traverses:
1. The Kugar traverse which is 2,152 feet high.
2. The Kurt Humaytan traverse which is 1,890 feet high.
3. The Kumaydan traverse which is 2,491 feet high.
4. The Baneh Barik traverse which is 2,457 feet high.
5. The Shaykh Muhammad traverse which is 2,243 feet high.

Concluding his statement, Muhsin said that the Iraqi forces are in full control of all places in the southern sector.

He said the situation is calm following the defeat sustained by the Iranians last Monday when their attempt against the Bubiyan and Kut al-Sawadi border posts east of Al-Basra was crushed.

Communique No 3,217

JN1606164188 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 16 Jun 88

[Communique No 3,217 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 16 June]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our valiant Armed Forces continued their combat activities last night and today as follows.

1. Our heroic Air Force planes today carried out 66 combat missions. They inflicted new losses on the aggressors. All our planes returned safely to base, God be praised.

2. The brave knights of helicopter gunships flew 155 combat missions. They inflicted important losses on enemy personnel, weapons, and equipment. Afterward, they returned safely to base under God's protection.

3. A brave force from one of our formations in the I Army Corps northern sector raided enemy positions opposite them. They killed 12 scoundrels and destroyed 1 machinegun and a number of other gun emplacements. The force then returned safely to its position. Elsewhere in the same sector, the following was achieved: 1 artillery position, 2 infantry positions, and 1 observation post were destroyed; 5 vehicles and 1 shovel [preceding word in English] were set ablaze and destroyed; 21 scoundrels were killed; and 1 ammunition dump was blown up. May God bless our brave men in the heroic I Army Corps.

4. In the I Special Army Corps sector, the Allahu Akbar Forces, one infantry position and one observation post were destroyed. In the II Army Corps central sector, five of the enemy personnel were killed and two machineguns and one infantry position were destroyed.

5. Three of the scoundrels were killed and two infantry positions and one vehicle were destroyed in the VI Army Corps sector east of the Tigris. One of the aggressors was killed and one ammunition dump was blown up in the VII Army Corps sector.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 16 June 1988

AL-JUMHURIYAH on Summit, Syria's Stand

JN1106111888 Baghdad INA in English 1015 GMT 11 Jun 88

[Excerpt] Baghdad, June 11, INA—Bases of joint Arab action and principles of the Arab nation were firmly established at Algiers summit, AL-JUMHURIYAH paper said today, adding that genuine stand of each Arab country distinguishedly emerged, while weak attitudes remained on the periphery.

In a leading article published here, AL-JUMHURIYAH said glorious victories realized by Iraq in Al-Faw and Al-Shalamjah [Shalamcheh] and uprising of the Palestinian people "have deepened unity of the Arab stand at this big Arab gathering."

Iraqi victories along with the uprising "have yielded tangible, crystal-clear results that were felt at the summit hall and during deliberations among Arab monarches, presidents, emirs and other officials."

Algiers summit resolutions and recommendations, the paper remarked, succeeded in reiterating the fact that the Arab nation "is a nation of peace and, being challenged by joint Iranian-Zionist threats, it has to materialize self-realization and deepen its humanitarian existence, principles and sublime values to serve stability, safety and security of the world."

Arab countries attending the summit, Al-JUMHURIYAH noted, frankly denounced Zionist-Iranian aggression, while lauding, in a clearer manner, Iraq's response to peace initiatives and its acceptance of Resolution No 598. This denunciation of aggression and approval of Iraq's stands clearly indicated each Arab country's attitude toward Iranian-Zionist aggressiveness, the daily mentioned.

Touching upon Hafiz al-Asad's regime's attitude vis-a-vis Arab unanimity at Algiers summit, AL-JUMHURIYAH stressed that the attitude of the Syrian regime was expected, because the Syrian regime "has for so long betrayed pan-Arab principles and deviated from the pan-Arab path."

Algiers summit succeeded in singling out genuine stands from weak ones, AL-JUMHURIYAH said, adding the spirit of the uprising and that of victories firmly established Arab stand at Algiers big Arab gathering. [passage omitted]

AL-THAWRAH Calls Mubarak Visit 'Brotherly'

JN1406104288 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 8 Jun 88 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "A Brotherly Visit and Developed Positive Relations"]

[Text] Baghdad embraced its great Arab guest President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, who arrived as a dear guest and honored brother carrying the sentiments of the Egyptian Arab people to the Iraqi people who are defending their land and sovereignty against an enemy that covets the Arabs' land, existence, and humanity.

President Muhammad Husni Mubarak's visit coincides with our people's celebrations of the major victories which liberated the national soil of Iraq in the Al-Faw triangle and Al-Shalamjah [Shalamcheh]. These victories have affirmed Iraq's capability, growing power, and entrenched structure and principles. At the same time, they confirmed the Iranian enemy's inability, erosion of its resources, defeat of its ideology, and downfall of its course.

When President Muhammad Husni Mubarak comes to Baghdad to express Egypt's fraternal solidarity stand, this brotherly visit expresses a firm pan-Arab stand on Iranian aggression against our country. This is an essential stand in Egypt's Arab policy and one of the pillars of the Egyptian leadership's political vision during President Muhammad Husni Mubarak's era.

While welcoming its great Egyptian Arab guest President Mubarak, victorious leader Saddam Husayn's Iraq believes—thanks to Iraq's principles and the instructions of its historic leader—that its victory over Iranian aggression in the longest and fiercest of wars maintains pan-Arab security and strengthens the Arabs. This victory also increases the Arabs' awareness of the requirements and prerequisites of their special historical and cultural role. In this role, the fraternal, developed, and sincere Iraqi-Egyptian relations occupy a special, effective position due to the weight, history, and pan-Arab human and cultural depth enjoyed by both Iraq and Egypt.

When Iraq's historic leader President Saddam Husayn affirms Iraq's adherence to all its rights and its adherence to just, comprehensive peace, it makes this affirmation based on a major and great victory in Al-Faw and Al-Shalamjah, as well as on absolute confidence in the capability of great Iraq—which has honored itself with its steadfastness, sacrifices, and victories in the same way it has honored itself with its principled, entrenched peaceful stands in all circumstances and throughout all stages of the imposed war. With this affirmation, made by the victorious leader who believes in peace, our nation acquires growing confidence and further peace of mind about its present and future. This future is proceeding firmly with the power of the Iraqi victory and Iraq's profound belief in the need to build inter-Arab

relations. It is governed by pan-Arab basics and positive faith and patience in order to reach the aspired Arab situation capable of ending the stage of fragmentation and weakness.

As a dear guest of his brother President Saddam Husayn, President Muhammad Husni Mubarak undoubtedly feels the profound genuine pan-Arab sentiments harbored by Iraqis—sentiments enriched and developed by the distinguished ideological contribution of President leader Saddam Husayn. President Mubarak also feels Iraq's official and public welcome and respect for him. In Iraq, he is in his country and among brothers as a dear brother and honored guest. Baghdad, which harbors every brotherly amity and pan-Arab respect for the Egyptian people, history, and pan-Arab role, welcomes him.

AL-THAWRAH Criticizes Kurd's Visit to U.S.

JN1606143788 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1310 GMT 16 Jun 88

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Jun (WAKH)—Iraq has described the talks held by U.S. State Department officials with Jalal Talabani, who heads an opposition Kurdish group, as a serious gesture contrary to the spirit of noninterference in the internal affairs of other countries.

AL-THAWRAH, organ of the ruling Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, said in an editorial today that Iraq categorically and unhesitatingly rejects this gesture. The comment follows 4 days of sharp criticism of the U.S. Administration by the INA's political editor on account of last week's Washington meeting.

AL-THAWRAH said Iraq is not only entitled to register its condemnation of this stand, which has as its target Iraq's national interests, but as is known, is capable of reciprocal action in the form it sees fit and necessary.

The criticism coincided with the reported cancellation by Iraq's Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz of a meeting with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, planned for today. AL-THAWRAH said that such behavior will meet with the proper response and in a manner so as to ward off harm to Iraq and the Arab nation.

There have been reports that Richard Murphy, U.S. assistant secretary of state, will visit Iraq during the coming week.

AL-THAWRAH concluded by calling the talks between Talabani and U.S. State Department officials an irregular practice. The paper said it is common knowledge that the U.S. Administration pursues two sided policies in response to developments in Iran in the interest of bringing Iran to the western camp. Let it be known, however, that when this is done at the expense of Iraq's vital interests, Iraq will mount the proper response, measured to ward off the inherent harm.

Editorial on Cancellation of Shultz Meeting

JN1706111288 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1000 GMT 17 Jun 88

[Text] Kuwait, 17 Jun (INA)—The newspaper AL-WATAN has said Iraq's decision to cancel a meeting between Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz and his U.S. counterpart George Shultz is a step in the right direction in dealing with the United States.

In its editorial today, the paper adds that U.S. logic cannot be accepted or obeyed in the absence of a stand similar to the Iraqi one and without promoting such a stand in a way that will lead to frank discussion on all issues that tarnish Arab-U.S. relations. The paper calls for enhancing and consolidating the Iraqi stand so that it may be followed by other, more effective stands that will exert direct pressure on Washington. The paper affirms that there are too many scores to be settled with the Americans and the road to such a settlement is bumpy. It says the numerous U.S. vetoes against the uprising and Arab rights and in favor of nourishing the Iranian aggression with weapons and secret contacts are the least but most clear obstacles to be overcome.

AL-WATAN adds that the only way to make the United States understand that there are people who demand that their rights be recognized is direct pressure. There are numerous ways to exert direct pressure. The Americans will never if we squat and watch who will be the next winner in elections, Dukakis or Bush. [sentence as received]

Briefs

Shipping Company Profits

An Iraqi maritime transportation establishment made profits worth 25.5 million Iraqi dinars last year. The director general of the General Shipping Establishment told INA today that at the begining of this month the Iraqi maritime fleet opened a new line linking the Jordanian port of Aqaba with North and South American ports. He added that two ships, the 13,300-tonne "Al-Sindibad" and the 13,000-tonne "Zayn al-Qaws" have recently joined the Iraqi fleet. [Text] [*JN1606124288 Baghdad INA Arabic 1000 GMT 16 Jun 88*]

Two 'Terrorists' Killed in Clash With IDF
TA1606152588 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 16 Jun 88

[Text] Two terrorists were killed this morning in a clash with an IDF force in the eastern sector of southern Lebanon. Our forces sustained no casualties. Our correspondent Menahem Horowitz reports.

[Begin recording] The encounter took place at nearly 0800 [0500 GMT] this morning on the western slopes of Mount Hermon, north of the village of Shab'a. An IDF force encountered a terrorist squad preparing an attack on either the security zone or Israeli territory. Two terrorists were killed by our forces' fire. Their personal arms and additional weapons were found next to their bodies.

Several times in recent months IDF soldiers have encountered terrorists in this area. The area is almost impassable and very easy to hide in. A month ago, on the eve of the Maydun operation, large numbers of IDF troops conducted searches in the area. The soldiers distributed leaflets to the residents warning them not to collaborate with the terrorists. Lebanese sources reported that the terrorists belonged to the Movement of Anti-Occupation Resistance, a unit named after Mustafa (Sati), a terrorist killed in a clash with an IDF squad a few months ago. [end recording]

Rabin Interviewed on Demolitions, PLO Referendum
TA1706052588 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0405 GMT 17 Jun 88

[Telephone interview with Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by moderator Arye Golan—live]

[Text] [Golan] Good morning, Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

[Rabin] Good morning.

[Golan] Sir, would you say that the demolition and sealing off of houses belonging to firebomb throwers marks a new stage, a further escalation in the intifada [uprising] and in our reaction to it?

[Rabin] Look, that thing you call the intifada has diverse faces and various spheres of activity. We must define the phenomena confronting us. This is no terrorist organization we have to deal with, but rather a confrontation with the majority of the Palestinian population in the territories that has been going on for over 6 months. Of course, this population is led by a radical hardcore nucleus, but most of the residents support and identify with these radical elements and their goals—the support often being reflected in both violent and passive activities. The population's activities are based on very basic things. This violence does not have to rely on complex logistics associated with terrorist organizations, such as the supply of weapons and ammunition. They resort to means accessible to anyone, such as stones and Molotov cocktails that are easily assembled. Any person, any 12-year-old child, can do it.

[Golan] But still, there were no Molotov cocktails in the beginning, and now there are quite a few people who...

[Rabin, interrupting] In the beginning, in the first month, many firebombs were hurled. This was part of the character of the violence of the first 3 months, or perhaps a bit longer. There were mass demonstrations, stones, barricades, burning tires, and Molotov cocktails—hundreds of them. We are now in fact in control—albeit not entirely—of the violence that characterized what the Arabs call the intifada, and you will no longer find the characteristically violent incidents in the territories, such as mass demonstrations, barricades, and burning tires. Since the IDF activities, which included administrative detentions and other measures, brought about a significant decrease of this kind of violence so widely publicized in world media, the so-called intifada has turned in other directions: passive resistance through partial commercial strikes, various activities directed against the local authorities and the Civilian Administration, as well as more active acts aimed at specific targets, such as Molotov cocktails and stones hurled along Israeli civilian and military traffic axes.

[Golan] As for the army's response—the demolition and sealing off of houses, like those carried out last night—some people may ask why the suspects are not put on trial, why houses are demolished without a trial. Mistakes could happen. one already did happen when a house was demolished. What would you tell the people?

[Rabin] Look, we are currently fighting violence in its present manifestations. We must ensure that the widespread violence that characterized the beginning of the uprising is not repeated. At the same time, we have to guarantee maximum safety for those who travel the traffic axes. The problem in Judaea and Samaria is more severe than in the Gaza Strip, where Jewish settlement is smaller and more compact. The army has received permanent orders concerning conduct in cases of self-defense, when a Molotov cocktail—which we define as a weapon—is thrown. We respond to Molotov cocktail throwers just as we do to those who wield any weapon. The same instructions on self-defense are valid for Israeli civilians who use the traffic axes. We also take immediate action in the case of detainees who have not yet been put on trial but who have confessed during interrogation, in order to make it clear that we intend to severely punish every person who throws a firebomb at an Israeli or Arab vehicle moving along the roads.

[Golan] Minister Rabin, on another issue: Today's press carries a document, composed by 'Arafat's adviser Bassam Abu Sharif, which declares the PLO's readiness to

hold talks with Israeli leaders, following with a referendum under international aegis will be held in the territories. The PLO states that if an alternative leadership is elected, it will accept the results. Perhaps the people who will be elected will be the same Palestinians with whom you have been holding talks recently?

[Rabin] I have not been holding talks with political leaders, or at least most of them are not political leaders even if they do have political stands. Our talks were concerned with matters pertaining to my capacity as defense minister in charge of the territories on behalf of the government.

[Golan] What do you think of the proposal by 'Arafat's aide to hold a referendum in the territories?

[Rabin] I do not think much of this proposal; it is unacceptable to me. The political solution which can bring peace to our eastern border, solve the Palestinian problem, and decide the permanent status of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip should be achieved through peace negotiations with Jordan, because most of our eastern border is with Jordan and is unrelated to the Palestinian problem. Naturally, a Palestinian representation should participate in these negotiations. Under the present conditions, a referendum is out of the question, unless it is preceded by a political agreement acceptable to the Israeli Government.

[Golan] Minister Rabin, to conclude the interview, I cannot refrain from asking you one question regarding the Labor Party's internal elections. Abba Eban is gone and you are not one of those who grieve over this, in view of your past relations with him.

[Rabin] That is inaccurate; it has nothing to do with personal relationships in the near or far past. On the one hand, I am sorry that many friends and fellow party members, including Abba Eban, who served in the last Knesset and in previous ones, are no longer on the party Knesset list. On the other hand, we talk about regeneration, and this is impossible without losing some of the veterans who are replaced by young newcomers.

[Golan] This was not, of course, the main point of our interview. Thank you very much, Mr Defense Minister.

[Rabin] Thank you.

Ben-Aharon Says Tabah Negotiations May Resume
TA1606185188 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1605 GMT 16 Jun 88

[Text] There is talk about the possibility that negotiations over a Tabah compromise will be renewed under the mediation of Abraham Sofaer, legal adviser to the U.S. Justice Department. The ruling by the Tabah arbitrators is supposed to be released in September. We have Yosi Ben-Aharon, the director general of the prime minister's office on the telephone.

[Correspondent Arye Golan] Good evening, Mr Ben-Aharon.

[Ben-Aharon] Good evening.

[Golan] Is the report that the negotiations could be resumed correct?

[Ben-Aharon] Yes, certainly. We informed the Egyptians via Abraham Sofaer that we are prepared to seek a resolution to the Tabah issue through a compromise. This has been preferable to us ever since the issue first cropped up. If the Egyptian response to renewed negotiations to find a compromise, without preconditions, is affirmative, we would certainly join such negotiations.

[Golan] In the meantime, I understand that the Egyptians insist that an invitation from Mr Sofaer be based on the existing U.S. proposal that sovereignty will be returned to Egypt.

[Ben-Aharon] We have already said several times that such a precondition is unacceptable because Egyptian sovereignty means it will be implemented on the ground. This means that all we will get are certain rights to enter the territory and some sort of right over managing the hotel. This is unacceptable as a reasonable compromise. We want a fair compromise that will give the Egyptians and us something so that we both achieve something. We will not agree to a compromise that will contain inherent problems over the meaning of each side's rights over the hotel, the beach front, and right of entrance to the area.

[Golan] According to this demand, and here I am returning to my first question, is there a basis for believing that the negotiations will be resumed? Do you know whether the Egyptians have agreed to this condition?

[Ben-Aharon] We believe there is a chance. We are dealing with it, and we are in touch with the State Department via the U.S. Embassy. There is a chance they will be resumed.

[Golan] If your proposal for no preconditions is not accepted do we then wait for the arbitrators ruling?

[Ben-Aharon] Of course, the arbitration effort is continuing until the two sides agree that negotiations for compromise has a chance. We would then turn to the arbitrators and call on them to suspend their work until the sides reach an agreement.

[Golan] Mr Ben-Aharon, you pointed out at the start of the interview that Mr Shamir wanted a compromise over Tabah from the beginning, but that a decision was taken to agree to arbitration. The question now is why try again to reach a compromise when the arbitration already exists?.

[Ben-Aharon] We believe, and I think it is also acceptable to the Americans, and I have reason to believe also to the Egyptians, that compromise is preferable because it is reached by agreement. Even if the arbitrators hand down their decision it does not necessarily solve all the problems because according to their mandate they are restricted from deciding on the positioning of a border marker. This does not solve the problem of control of the area, sovereignty over the entire area, where the exact position of the border will be, who has rights over the hotel, or whether or not to sell the hotel. That is to say, there might be extensive negotiations even after the arbitration is completed. Therefore, reaching an agreement with the Egyptians on all the problems—deciding where the border will run and who has sovereignty, and the issue of entrance to the area—is no doubt preferable.

[Golan] Could it be that you have a feeling about which way the wind is blowing regarding the arbitrators ruling?

[Ben-Aharon] No, I have also heard all sorts of reports that it is going against us. There is no basis for these reports. The arbitrators cannot release anything on the way their thinking is going until they sit down to write their decision, and they have not done that yet.

[Golan] Thank you very much Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of the prime minister's office.

[Ben-Aharon] Thank you and good evening.

Sofaer To Mediate Talks

TA1606190188 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 16 Jun 88

[Text] Egypt and Israel will soon begin negotiations aimed at reaching conciliation on Tabah. Our correspondent Yoram Ronen reports that an agreement on this was reached during talks this week between Avraham Tamir, director general of the Foreign Ministry, and Egyptian leaders. At the same time there will be talks in Washington between Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid and Abraham Sofaer, the legal adviser to the U.S. Justice Department. Sofaer will chair sessions in Europe and the United States. Our correspondent said that Egyptian leaders told Tamir that they are interested in a compromise although they know that the ruling of the arbitrators will be in their favor. This is because they do not want to sour Israel-Egyptian relations.

Shomron Holds Interview on IDF Firebomb Policy

TA1606200388 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 16 Jun 88

[Text] Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Dan Shomron said there is a slow decline in the motivation of the inhabitants of the territories to participate in violent actions, but there is a need for a great deal of patience until real quiet is restored. The chief of staff said IDF soldiers will continue to fire at those who hurl firebombs, and that this is not a new order. The chief of staff made his remarks in an interview with our Army affairs correspondent Moshe Shlonsky.

[Begin recording] [Shlonsky] General, is the throwing of firebombs a turning point in the uprising?

[Shomron] No, in my view there is no turning point here. It has been going on for several months. When we realized that violence on a large scale would wane, we knew that they would look for other ways to expend their energy. One of the simplest ways is to throw firebombs. Any boy knows how to make a firebomb and throw it. The problem is that a firebomb can cause lots of damage as has been the case in the past week.

[Shlonsky] How do we cope with the phenomenon?

[Shomron] We are taking measures to capture the culprits, seal up houses, and sometimes demolish the houses from which the firebombs were thrown on the spot. The punishment is harsh but pinpointed.

[Shlonsky] Have you begun to demolish the houses of those who throw firebombs?

[Shomron] Yes, in some cases we have captured those who hurled the firebombs and their homes were demolished.

[Shlonsky] Is there not a danger that, following the order to fire at those who throw firebombs, we will have lots of fatalities in the territories because of the many incidents?

[Shomron] The order to fire at those who hurl firebombs has never changed. This form of violence is as dangerous as a grenade. It is true that in the initial days of the rioting, when lots of civilians congregated in groups during demonstrations, we ordered the soldiers not to fire into a crowd if one of them threw a firebomb. Now, when there are fewer firebomb incidents, the order has been reinstituted to fire at any anybody who throws a firebomb just the same as at those using any other weapon. [end recording]

Israeli Arab Minor Jailed for Stone Throwing

TA1606165388 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1605 GMT 16 Jun 88

[Excerpts] A Haifa District Court today sentenced a minor who was convicted of stoning cars along the coastal road to 2 years in jail. Our correspondent Yo'av Aviv has the details: [passage omitted]

The offense occurred 2 months ago when a 15-year-old youth from the village of Jisr al-Zarqa hurled stones at cars travelling along the coastal road. The youth was arrested, interrogated, and confessed to the charges. [passage omitted]

More on Unrest, Related Incidents in Territories

Number of Firebombs Thrown

TA1606133188 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 16 Jun 88 p 1

[Report by Ori Nir]

[Excerpt] The defense establishment has reported that over 800 Molotov cocktails were thrown in the territories during the 6 months of the uprising, approximately 10 times more than during a similar period last year.

Some of the firebombs were thrown at Arabs suspected of "collaboration" and at Israeli public buildings, but the vast majority was aimed at Israeli vehicles, both civilian and military. [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew on 16 June in a page four report by David Regev adds: "Molotov cocktails were thrown yesterday at the houses of four Arab employees of the Gaza Strip Civilian Administration. There were no casualties or damage. The Administration hopes that the incident will not cause the Arab workers to resign."]

West Bank Resident Sentenced

TA1606160588 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 16 Jun 88

[Text] A military court in Janin today sentenced a resident of the village of Rummanah to 4 years in jail. The resident had participated in an incident 2 months ago in which stones and firebombs were thrown at IDF soldiers. Our correspondent Aharon Barne'a said the harsh sentence is part of the IDF's policy to deter people from participating in disturbances in the territories.

'Terrorist Squads' Uncovered

TA1606191288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 16 Jun 88

[Text] Several terrorist squads known to have thrown Molotov cocktails and committed other terrorist acts have been uncovered in Samaria. Security forces tore down seven houses belonging to people involved in these acts, and sealed off five other homes.

Squads' Houses Demolished

TA1706043488 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 17 Jun 88

[Text] The security forces have destroyed 14 homes and sealed off 4 others in the territories in the past 24 hours. During the night, four homes were sealed in Jericho. A Voice of Israel reporter says the homes belong to members of a terrorist gang responsible for the throwing of firebombs in the Jericho region during the month of April. Yesterday the security forces destroyed 14 homes in a number of villages and towns in Samaria. The homes belong to suspects charged with throwing firebombs.

Defending the action, the head of the Army Central Command, General 'Amram Mitzna', said that the Army would use all means at its disposal to fight the wave of firebombs.

Stone Thrown at Hadera Woman

TA1706044388 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 17 Jun 88

[Text] A 33-year-old Hadera woman sustained a serious injury to her eye last night from a stone that was thrown at the train she was traveling in. She was traveling to Nahariyya on the Tel Aviv train. The incident occurred in 'Akko, when a group of youths threw stones at the train as it was leaving the station.

5 Arabs, 2 Officers Wounded

TA1706085388 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0830 GMT 17 Jun 88

[Text] Five residents of the village of Bayt Furik near Nabulus were wounded by IDF fire this morning. Two IDF officers were injured by stones. Our correspondent 'Eran Ben-Porat reports:

[Begin recording] An IDF force entered the Nabulus District village of Bayt Furik to blow up the house of Ahmad Hannani. He had been involved in a series of murders, the most prominent of which was the assassination of former Nabulus Mayor Zafir al-Masri. The force was attacked by crowds of rioters who hurled Molotov cocktails, bricks, and stones. Two IDF officers were injured by stones. When the force was surrounded and the soldiers' lives were endangered, they were obliged to open fire. It was later reported that five villagers were wounded. A curfew was imposed on Bayt Furik, and the house was eventually blown up. [end recording]

King Husayn Receives Message From Gorbachev
JN1606061188 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 16 Jun 88

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received in London yesterday the Soviet ambassador to the United Kingdom. He handed his majesty a message from the Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev on the outcome of the U.S.-Soviet summit recently held in Moscow.

Husayn-Thatcher Meeting, 'Political Moves' Viewed
JN1606110488 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 16 Jun 88 pp 1, 16

[Editorial: "The Jordanian Political Move and the Next Stage"]

[Text] The Jordanian political moves on the Arab and international levels that have been going on since before the Algiers summit, have many aims and implications.

Under the leadership of King Husayn, Jordan has always enjoyed the confidence and appreciation of the Arabs. Jordan strongly believes that, due to the current circumstances and developments in the Arab nation and region, the Arab political move on both the general and individual levels, and within the goals and trends of the nation, is essential.

In the context of this political move comes the meeting between His Majesty King Husayn and British Prime Minister Margaret Thathcer, so that Britain may continue its role in the European community, which has expressed understanding for the uprising of the Palestinian people against the Israeli occupation and its terrorist practices. The meeting also aimed at activating the process of achieving a just and lasting peace through a fully-powered international peace conference that is called for by the United Nations and attended by the five Security Council permanent states as well as all parties to the conflict.

Through its political experience, which adheres to the goals of the Arab nation, Jordan believes that there is no place for those who stand and wait, and if we do not move, we will leave a vaccum for others to fill which may be against the interests and aims of our nation.

Jordan is, therefore, eager that the Arab cause be always present and vital, presenting itself to the world community so that increasing support may be won.

Undoubtedly, the meeting between His Majesty King Husayn and Thatcher is based on new developments that uphold the two countries joint stand, especially in light of the Algiers summit resolutions, which stressed the need for activating the peace process despite the obstacles that Israel places, supported in this by the United States, which linked its views regarding a Middle East peace to Israel's intransigent views.

The other elements in the Husayn-Thatcher dialogue are derived from the results of the recent superpower summit in Moscow that dealt with several topics, including the Middle East problem.

Perhaps the meeting between his majesty the king and Gorbachev's envoy in London would further clarify the Jordanian stand, which reflects the Arab stand that has won wide international support, to the British prime minister.

The Jordanian move has benefited from the atmosphere of the Algiers summit to continue consecrating the concepts and goals of the Amman summit regarding a comprehensive settlement. It is armed with a joint Arab decision on the need for a peaceful settlement through an international conference. This Jordanian move highlights Jordan's convictions and Arab confidence in Jordan's role. It also highlights Jordan's support for the heroic Palestinian uprising. In their recent summit, the Arab brothers were unanimous on the need to use the uprising in the interest of the Palestinian people, who are struggling to regain their legitimate rights, particularly the right to self-determination on Palestinian national soil.

Reportage on Mount Hermon Battle With Israelis

NC1606111688 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 16 Jun 88

[Text] In the resisting south, violent clashes took place on the slopes of Mount Hermon this morning betweeen a group of resistance men and Israeli occupation forces and agents. During the continuous 5-hour fighting, the enemy used artillery and helicopters. The clash left several casualties among the occupation forces and agents and two Lebanese fighters were martyred.

AFP reports that the confrontation began on the western slopes of Mount Hermon at 0400 today and that machineguns and rockets of various kinds were used. The clash erupted when a group of national resistance men were ambushed by Israeli occupation forces and agents in the area. AFP cites security sources as saying that the confrontation had been going on for 3 hours when Israel sent 100 soldiers, backed by vehicles, to the scene of the clash. The force advanced on two axes from Shab'a and Hasbayya. Israeli artillery emplacements in the eastern sector intervened and bombarded the resistance positions with 155-mm shells.

According to reports received later, four Israeli helicopters participated in the battle, firing machineguns at the area. The resistance men fired a SAM missile at the helicopters. The Israeli bombardment was still going on at noon today and a state of full alert prevails in western Al-Biqa'.

Front Issues Statement

NC1606112388 (Clandestine) Voice of the People in Arabic to Lebanon 1045 GMT 16 Jun 88

[Text] We have just received the following statement from the National Resistance Front on the major confrontation with the [Israeli] occupation forces on the slopes of Mount Hermon, that has been going on since dawn today.

Forces of the Lebanese National Resistance Front have been waging ferocious battles against the Israeli occupation forces on the slopes of Mount Hermon and in the Jabal al-Wastani area, to the southeast of Kufayr al-Zayt, since dawn today, 16 June. The enemy forces have brought in helicopters to carry out a large-scale search of all the Mount Hermon hills as far as 'Ayn 'Ata. The helicopters have been trying since 0900 to land commando forces in the battlefield. Our forces are confronting them and the ferocious battles are still raging.

The Lebanese National Resistance Front command, while hailing the heroic fighting comrades of Anwar Yasin, has named this operation after the groups of martyrs Muhammad Muhammad Yunis and Muhammad Mahfuz, to mark the fourth anniversary of their martyrdom.

The Resistance Front command added that it will give more details in subsequent statements.

Amal Claims Responsibility

NC1606161188 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 16 Jun 88

[Text] The Lebanese Resistance-Amal has claimed responsibility for the wide-scale ferocious clashes which raged between resistance fighters and occupation troops on the slopes of Mount Hermon early today. The clashes left two Israeli soldiers wounded and two resistance fighters martyred.

'Fierce Fighting' Continues

NC1606194388 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 16 Jun 88

[Text] According to reports from western Al-Biqa', the confrontation between resistance men and Zionist forces has continued on the slopes of Mount Hermon until this evening. The reports indicate that the occupation forces suffered more than 20 casualties.

In a statement released tonight, the Lebanese National Resistance Front said that battles contine to rage between the national resistance fighters and occupation forces on the slopes of Mount Hermon. The Front added that the Israeli forces brought in additional military reinforcements in an attempt to besiege the resistance men in the area.

The statement notes that fierce fighting involving various types of weapons continues to rage. The statement adds that the National Resistance command managed to send reinforcements to the battlefield and to fire a number of rockets at the Israeli supply routes.

The statement also says that the Israeli enemy brought in over 300 soldiers as reinforcements, supported by 10 helicopters, which are currently strafing the valleys and ridges of the area.

Dissidents Deny Fatah Assassination Claim

NC1606121888 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 16 Jun 88

[Text] Fighting resumed between Fatah and the dissidents in Shatila camp today. Artillery and automatic weapons were used. A Fatah spokesman today accused supporters of Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha] of assassinating six Fatah fighters in an ambush on the outskirts of Shatila yesterday. The dissidents, however, denied the charge, affirming their determination to honor the cease-fire.

At 1330, the shelling of Shatila from Bi'r Hasan and the Sports City, where the dissidents' positions are located, intensified. An Al-Sa'iqah office in Shatila was hit by a 160-mm shell.

The seven-member committee, which consists of noncombatant Palestinian groups, met in Mar Ilyas camp shortly before noon today. The Syrian observers were

not present. The committee failed to reach any agreement in view of the continued differences, which were reflected in the form of clashes.

According to neutral Palestinian sources, four Fatah fighters and three civilians were killed and two others were wounded in a brief clash between Fatah and the dissidents yesterday, several hours after a joint Palestinian committee reached agreement on a cease-fire.

The clashes have left 64 dead and 400 wounded so far.

Inter-Palestinian Clashes Subside; Cease-Fire

NC1606180788 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 16 Jun 88

[Excerpt] Violent clashes between inter-Palestinian groups occurred in the Shatila and Burj al-Barajinah camps today, with the most violent fighting taking place from 1500 to 1600. The clashes subsided after a cease-fire agreement was reached at 1800. Today's battles left 7 people dead and about 16 others wounded.

Security sources have said that this afternoon's shelling originated from the outskirts of Shatila camp, specifically the Bi'r Hasan and Sports City areas.

The joint Palestinian committee is now conducting a field tour inside the two camps. The dissidents have said that the follow-up committee has been in continuous session and that a delegation from the central committee is expected to arrive from Damascus in the next few hours to supervise the implementation of the cease-fire agreement. [passage omitted]

Syria Threatens to Send PLA Forces Into Camps

NC1706140788 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1345 GMT 17 Jun 88

[Text] Citing Lebanese security sources, the Abu Dhabi newspaper AL-ITTIHAD reports that Syria has threatened both of Fatah's wings that it will dispatch four battalions of the Palestine Liberation Army [PLA] to the camps if the two sides fail to reach a cease-fire.

Al-Huss Hints New Government Could Be Formed

NC1706120688 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1120 GMT 17 Jun 88

[Text] Answering a question on the authenticity of reports, which have increased in the wake of the Algiers summit, and which state that the government situation will be tackled through the formation of a new government or the resurrection of the present government, Acting Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss said: If the suitable political conditions for dealing with the abnormal government situation are secured, it is natural that such a step should come through the formation of a new government and not through the resurrection of the present government.

Answering another question, Al-Huss said: I, personally, have no intention of participating in any new government.

Junblatt Reportedly Fears Syrian 'Harassment'

NC1706060788 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 17 Jun 88

[Text] Local news agencies have quoted a source close to the PSP leader as saying that Minister Walid Junblatt travels abroad in order to avoid Syrian harassment and pressure. He was quoted as saying: I believe that the Syrians are concocting something against me. This is the first time that I am afraid of them. Therefore, Junblatt added, we must flatter them as much as possible, tolerate their harassment, and not be drawn into a confrontation with them, so as to avoid what happened in the southern suburb, particularly to the Amal Movement and its leader Nabih Birri, who used to be regarded as Syria's first man and who was regarded by President al-Asad as the red line which could not be crossed.

The source revealed that PSP leaders informed the party leader that some of his supporters and party members were subjected to harassment and detention by Syrian Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an and his intelligence service.

Amal Lists Conditions for Reconciliation

NC1606193688 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1815 GMT 16 Jun 88

[Text] The Amal Movement's Political Bureau has discussed a working paper on reconciliation with Hizballah. The AKHBAR LUBNAN NEWS AGENCY says this paper puts forth conditions that represent positions previously adopted by the Movement on various occasions. These conditions include the following: Security in the south must be entrusted to Amal; a joint operations room for resistance against Israel must be formed; attacks against UNIFIL must be halted; those who suffered property and human losses during the events in the suburb must be compensated for their losses; and reconciliation must include all the parties concerned in the suburb affairs, including Iranian representatives.

Bomb Explodes Near Home of SLA Commander

TA1606171688 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 16 Jun 88

[Text] A large explosive device blew up near the home of General Antoine Lahd, commander of the south Lebanese Army. Nobody was wounded and there was no damage. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that 30 to 40 kg of TNT were placed in the cannister of a missile. Lahd's bodyguards are investigating the incident, but have not come up with anything thus far.

Prime Minister Receives Jordan's Al-Tabba'

JN1606180588 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 16 Jun 88

[Text] Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi received at 1830 today Hamdi al-Tabba', minister of industry, trade, and supply in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. The meeting was attended by Dr Muhammad al-'Imadi, minister of economy and foreign trade; and Antoine Jubran, minister of industry. The talk during this meeting dealt with a number of topics, economic relations, and fields of mutual cooperation and means of developing and strengthening this cooperation in the interest of both fraternal peoples and countries.

Jordanian Minister Leaves

JN1706140488 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1315 GMT 17 Jun 88

[Text] Hamdi al-Tabba', Jordanian industry and trade minister, left Syria for Amman via Al-Ramtha today after attending the meetings of the general assembly of the Joint Syrian-Jordanian Industrial Company.

AL-THAWRAH Calls Shultz Trip 'Failure'

PM1606155588 Damascus AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 9 Jun 88 p 2

[Muhammad 'Ali Buzah article: "Shultz at an Impasse"]

[Text] Like his three previous shuttle tours, U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz' fourth tour of the Middle East region has failed, achieving no tangible results.

Both Shultz and White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater have admitted that the present mission has not achieved any success worth mentioning with regard to the issue of peace in the Middle East. They said: The U.S. Administration will continue its efforts until President Reagan leaves the White House next January, in an attempt to find a way out of the present dilemma. Although neither mentioned the reasons for such a result, the outcome of the U.S. secretary's mission in the region was both natural and expected in view of its nature and objectives in comparison with the ideas brought by Shultz. The objective of the U.S. moves, whatever they have been called, has been to try to contain and abort the uprising of the revolutionary masses in the occupied Arab territories in order to extricate Israel from the difficult dilemma caused by the continuing and escalating uprising, which has entered its seventh month. The uprising is continuing with more power and determination to enhance the struggle and force the Zionist enemy to end its occupation of the Arab territories and recognize the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people.

During his four tours Shultz tried to overlook the firm facts which the uprising has established and embodied as a reality on the ground. In his plan he turned to the method of maneuvering, deception, playing for time, and trying to secure concessions in the interest of the Zionist enemy to perpetuate his occupation of the Arab territories. This is in the knowledge that the ideas he brings each time ignore Arab rights, reject recognition of the Palestinian people's rights, and endorse direct negotiations between the Arabs and Israel, along the line of Camp David, as a basis for the peace process. That is why the United States has failed once again. Shultz failed each time. And this is not strange or unexpected with regard to the United States and its policy, since Washington has never been a neutral party to the Arab-Israeli conflict. The main objective of its policy in the Middle East region has been to achieve Israel's interests.

On this basis it is not qualified to play an impartial, positive, constructive role in the interest of a just and comprehensive peace in the region, since it is not implementing a U.S. policy but rather a purely Israeli policy stripping it of its prestige and credibility as a superpower and exposing it to storms.

The failure of Shultz' present tour reflects the suffering of U.S. policy in the region and the impasse facing its capitulationist and liquidationist solutions as a result of the absolute and blind support as well as the limitless aid extended to Israel. The stones uprising has put both the United Stated and its strategic ally, the Zionist entity, in a difficult dilemma. And today we urgently need to deepen this dilemma by emphasizing Arab principles and backing the uprising of our revolutionary kinfolk in order to block the road completely in the face of all attempts aimed at eliminating the Palestinian cause. We thus must force the enemy and his imperialist masters to recognize Arab rights and the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to self-determination and to establish their independent national state on their own territory, Palestine.

Despite Shultz' tactical and maneuvering statements in some Arab capitals, it goes without saying that any U.S. move or endeavor overlooking these principles and the basis of a just and comprehensive peace is doomed to fail, and fail rapidly.

Afghanistan

Border Fire Exchanged With Pakistani Troops

BK1706010388 Hong Kong AFP in English 1857 GMT 16 Jun 88

[Excerpts] Quetta, Pakistan, June 16 (AFP)—Pakistani and Afghan troops Thursday exchanged artillery fire across the Baluchistan Province border for the third day running, official sources said.

There was also intensified fighting in Afghanistan between mujahidin and the army for control of Spin Buldak town, the sources said.

In what was seen as a spillover of the fighting, two artillery shells landed in Pakistani territory and Pakistani Border Security Forces returned fire, the sources in the provincial capital Quetta said. No casualties were reported.

The first Pakistani retaliation to shelling was reported on Tuesday, when Afghan artillery killed three children and wounded 14 people. A similar incident was responded to Wednesday, the sources said, adding that repeated shelling has led people to flee border villages.

Fighting in Spin Buldak has entered its fourth week, claiming heavy casualties on both sides.

Resistance sources said mujahidin pressure on the town has increased. If it were captured the rebels would have unhindered access to Afghanistan's second-biggest city, Qandahar. [passage omitted]

Rebel sources said mujahidin were intercepting supplies for Afghan troops engaged in a "fierce battle" to prevent the fall of Spin Buldak.

Meanwhile, Radio Kabul in a broadcast monitored in Islamabad, said six guerrillas were killed in Qandahar Province Thursday.

Two rebels died in nearby Zabul province, the radio added.

The radio also reported clashes in Nangarhar Province where 14 rebels were killed and four injured. Two civilians died in a land-mine blast in Robat District near the garrison town Jalalabad.

Soviet Troops Deployed Near Pakistan Border

OW1706123788 Beijing Domestic Service in Mandarin 0930 GMT 17 Jun 88

[Text] According to Dong Runfang, a reporter of this station in Islamabad, pro-Afghanistan Soviet troops have deployed more troops in Waghjan, a border city near Northwest Pakistan, and have declared the area an off-limits zone.

According to reports, the USSR has deployed the latest type of long-range missiles in Waghjan. The Soviet defense minister made a 2-day visit to Waghjan early this month, and Soviet troops have carried out mammoth military exercises in Waghjan during the last 2 weeks.

Kabul Convoy Ambushed En Route to Spin Buldak

BK1606164088 Hong Kong AFP in English 1533 GMT 16 Jun 88

[Text] Quetta, Pakistan, June 16 (AFP)—Afghan rebels have killed 55 government troops and lost six of their fighters in an ambush on a convoy sent to beef up defence of a strategic border town threatened by the mujahidin, resistance sources said Thursday.

A 30-vehicle convoy was coming from Qandahar, about 200 kilometres (90 miles) north of this western Pakistan city, carrying Afghan Army reinforcements to Spin Buldak—just across the Afghan-Pakistan border—when mujahidin guerrillas ambushed it last Friday, killing 55 troops, the sources said.

The rebels knocked out a tank but lost six of their men.

It is not known whether the Qandahar convoy eventually entered Spin Buldak.

The road between Spin Buldak and Qandahar has been closed to routine traffic for the past few days, the sources said.

Intense fighting over the past two weeks has claimed heavy casualties and caused acute food shortages in the Spin Buldak area, they said.

Three Pakistani children were killed and 14 people injured Tuesday when Afghan artillery shelled a village near the Pakistani border town of Chaman, opposite Spin Buldak.

Meanwhile resistance alliance sources claimed to have captured some security posts around the Golbahar Textile Mill in Kapisa Province north of Kabul on June 9 after an attack in which the mujahidin claim to have inflicted heavy losses on government forces.

Golbahar is a major Afghan textile centre.

Rebels set a cotton storehouse ablaze and destroyed a police headquarters in the attack, in which 15 mujahidin were killed, the sources said.

The Kapisa governor and other officials fled to Kabul following the guerrilla operation, the sources said.

Afghan Air Force planes have been heavily bombing Qal'eh-ye Sorkh and Bagrami north of Kabul for the past few days, damaging farms and residential areas, the sources added.

Prime Minister's Speech to Wolasi Jirgah 16 Jun

LD1606202888 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1230 GMT 16 Jun 88

[Speech by Prime Minister Muhammad Hasan Sharq at the Wolasi Jirgah session in Kabul on 16 June—live]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Esteemed Dr Khalil Ahmad Abawi, chairman, and esteemed members of the Wolasi Jirgah:

In the last few days the government has carefully listened to the constructive proposals, demands, criticisms, complaints, and views of you esteemed delegates, which in fact are reasonable demands and reflect the vision and principled thinking of the God-loving and freedom-loving Afghan people on crucial internal issues and international aspects of the country's situation. Let me tell you that the members of the government-designate and I have come to the conclusion that the Afghan people, despite the conditions of war, made a carefully considered and correct decision in electing their representatives. I wish the number of seats allocated to the delegates of the opposition [words indistinct] had not been vacant, and I wish I had benefited from their views and proposals in a free session.

Dear friends and representatives of the Afghan people, it is a bitter and unpleasant truth that the delegates of a section of our dear compatriots and the delegates of our discontented and opposition compatriots are not present here. Let me once again assure you, and through you, all compatriots who are far away but are interested in the fate of Afghanistan, that the government will not ignore their wishes and will not monopolize any rank or position, so that the noble objective of restoring peace in the country and securing national reconciliation may be achieved.

Several esteemed delegates asked about the composition of the cabinet from the viewpoint of its coalition character. Let me explain that the present cabinet is being formed with one common objective, namely, to participate in the task of reconciliation and to secure a compromise with the opponents. The cabinet does not comprise [words indistinct] various parties consisting of those who are in agreement with securing a compromise, and they are prepared to assist in the creation of a coalition government. The government is prepared to discuss any position or rank with those who assist in securing reconciliation and to review its composition.

In the present government there is no monopoly on positions or rank. We are merely seeking a key to the solution of issues arising from the war of [word indistinct] and we are ready to accept anyone in the government from any tribe or nationality who is effective in the task of reconciliation. Your objections to the effect that the government has no coalition features are partially correct. We are [word indistinct] after the creation of coalition government with the oppositon parties (?groups). To achieve this aim we have invited personalities, (?ulema), and patriotic and honest people to cooperate with us.

Esteemed delegates, we listened carefully to the requirements and your proposals on repairing some of the destruction caused by the 10-year war, all of which are reasonable, correct and true. We know that the flames of this destructive war have not only destroyed agricultural fields, villages, and cities in our country but have also weakened the country's economic and financial situation so much that it is not feasible to repair this damage from the country's present internal resources for many years yet.

The conclusion of the Geneva accords attracted a lot of interest among of our refugee compatriots, who number several million, in their desire to return soon or immediately to the home of their ancestors. We hope that the Pakistani Government will be reasonable and pave the way for our compatriots to return unhindered, in accordance with the agreements.

Of course, the return of several million migrant compatriots is not an easy task for a country like Afghanistan which has suffered from years of imposed war. In our view, the successful fulfillment of this duty will create formidable difficulties not only for the Ministry of Returnees Affairs but also for the Afghan Government as a whole.

In order to avoid friction in the task of our compatriots' return we have established broad contacts with international bodies and the United Nations. His Excellency the UN secretary general [words indistinct] that the international organization takes a generous view of of the country's need for international assistance. The recent visit by the famous international figure, His Excellency Prince Sadruddin Agha Khan, who has been appointed as organizer of international assistance to the Republic of Afghanistan, has also fueled our hopes. I must tell you that fortunately today I received a letter from Sadruddin Agha Khan expressing his readiness to assist Afghanistan. He is waiting for peace to be restored in our homeland. The government-designate expects [words indistinct].

Fortunately friendly countries have also shown their readiness to assist and cooperate in this respect. You know that to receive the returnee compatriots to (?attract) international assistance, and to make proper use of this assistance requires the restoration of peace and security in the country.

As the government-designate outlines policy, in consideration of [word indistinct] facts, it devotes all attention to the restoration of peace throughout the country and regards this as the quickest way to resolve socioeconomic

and national issues. So I ask you, esteemed delegates, to concentrate most of your efforts on one main aim, that is, the implementation of the national reconciliation policy.

His Excellency President Dr Najibullah has placed the humanitarian policy of national reconciliation first among the presidential duties. This has been accepted by the Afghan people. The country's leadership is honestly striving to implement it.

I assure our esteemed delegates that the government-designate will as soon as possible strive with all its strength to find the road to reconciliation with the opponent parties. As esteemed President Najibullah said, this government will be a government [words indistinct] for the realization of national reconciliation and nationwide peace. I hope we can implement this with your help and pave the way toward peace using the shortest and most rational road to achieve this lofty objective.

Praise be to those men who in our country's difficult circumstances in which the smell of blood is in every corner, and in which the homeland is involved in mourning sessions and condolence ceremonies for the loss of friends and loved ones, choose as their first and last objective the restoration of peace and reconciliation, and who are prepared for self-sacrifice to achieve this. We hope that we all benefit from this great pride. With the help of almighty God and the courage of Afghanistan's sons we will successfully realize this objective.

Esteemed delegates of the Wolasi Jirgah, while expressing my appreciation for your confidence as servants of this homeland, I ask almighty God to grant us success in our work for the glory of the beloved homeland and your [words indistinct], dear compatriots, and to follow resolutely the sacred religion of Islam which is your desire, proud, Muslim, and patriotic people of Afghanistan.

Dear delegates, thanking you for your confidence, I must say [words indistinct]. Thank you. [applause]

Prime Minister Receives Vote of Confidence

LD1706094188 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0503 GMT 17 Jun 88

[Text] Kabul, June 16, BAKHTAR—One hundred fifty eight deputies of the House of Representatives discussed in the past six days the domestic and foreign policy line of Muhammad Hasan Sharq who had been assigned by the presidential decree to form a cabinet. The police line of the government designate led by Muhammad Hasan Sharq unanimously received vote of confidence in today's session of the House of Representatives.

In today's session presided over by the Speaker of the House Dr. Khalil Ahmad Abawi, the deputies expressed their views on the policy line and composition of the government designate, and put forward their proposals for the realization of national reconciliation, cessation of war and improvement of the living conditions of the people.

In the other part of the session of the House of Representatives method giving vote of confidence to the policy line and composition of the government designate was put under discussion.

After receiving the vote of confidence Dr. Khalil Ahmad Abawi, speaker of the House, on behalf of the deputies congratulated Dr. Muhammad Hasan Sharq and members of his cabinet on receiving the vote of confidence and wished successes for them in realization of domestic and foreign policy line of the government, fulfillment of the wishes of the people of Afghanistan and ensurance of peace in the country.

Later on Dr. Muhammad Hasan Sharq, prime minister of the Republic of Afghanistan thanked the deputies for their vote of confidence and (?said) I assure the deputies that the government will (?make) every effort to find comprise between the hostile (?parties) as soon as possible.

Sharq Biography Detailed

LD1706084888 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0424 GMT 17 Jun 88

[Text] Kabul, June 16, BAKHTAR—Mr. Muhammad Hasan Sharq s/o [son of] Ghulam Muhammad Khan Born in Anar Darreh district of Farah Province in mid July 1925. He was graduated from his native village primary school in 1937. He was graduated in 1943 from military school and from the faculty of medicine of Kabul university in 1953.

His opposition with the policies of the regime caused him to be dropped from the school and faculty four times, and be in prison. After graduation from the faculty of medicine Muhammad Hasan Sharq was employed as a physician in army hospital in 1953.

He had a share in overthrowing King Zahir Shah by Muhammad Daud and then in mid July, he was appointed as a deputy to the head of state. He worked in that post till 1977. He was appointed as ambassador of Afghanistan in Japan in early 1977.

Sharq returned home from Japan back in May 1978.

Dr. Muhammad Hasan Sharq worked as ambassador in New Delhi from the beginning of 1980 till mid 1967. After which he was appointed as president of the Central Administration of returnees and member of the presidium of high commission for national reconciliation. He was also appointed as deputy prime minister in 1987.

Based on the decree of Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan, Dr. Muhammad Hasan Sharq was assigned as a prime minister to form the new cabinet on 25 May 1988. He is married and has two children.

Senate Approves National Assembly Law 15 Jun

LD1606105588 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0421 GMT 16 Jun 88

[Text] Kabul, June 15, BAKHTAR—The draft of Law of the National Assembly was approved in twelve chapters and ninety one articles in today's session of the Senate.

Session of the Senate of National Assembly presided over by Dr. Mahmud Habibi, speaker of the Senate was convened here today to discuss the draft of the law.

In today's session the remaining articles of the law were discussed and a number of amendments were made on the law as well.

The draft was approved after voting by the Senate.

Bangladesh

Finance Minister Announces Budget for 1988-89

BK1606171588 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 16 Jun 88

[Excerpts] The national budget for 1988-89 fiscal year has been announced. Finance Minister M.A. Munim presented a 319 crore taka revenue surplus for the year in the Jatiya Sangsad [parliament] this afternoon. The revenue receipts for the year have been estimated at 5,569 crore taka and the revenue expenditure 5,250 crore taka. Out of total revenue receipts, 4,765 crore taka will come from taxes, and 804 crore taka from non-tax receipts. The total revenue receipts during the next fiscal year would increase by 8.2 percent and the rate of tax receipts by little over 9 percent. Among tax receipts, customs, excise and sales tax are expected to show larger increase on account of higher industrial output and dutiable imports.

In the new budget, the expenditure estimates are based on unavoidable requirements under various heads, including interest on the domestic and external debt. Increases will be required in various relevant grants in order to fulfill administrative responsibilities, maintain and utilize the existing assets adequately, and strengthen the national security and law and order.

The size of the proposed Annual Development Program [ADP] for the next fiscal year stands at 5,315 crore taka. It has been determined in the light of realistic requirements of national economy. Two areas have been identified for special priority in the ADP. These are agriculture and poverty alleviation through job opportunity. In the program for the next fiscal year, an allocation of 1,088 crore taka has been proposed for agriculture and water resources as against 923 crore taka in the outgoing fiscal year's revised program.

The ADP for the next year also includes provisions of 170 crore taka for the improvement of infrastructure in districts and upazilas [subdistricts], another 170 crore taka for development assistance to upazilas and 50 crore taka for the development of the Chittagong Hill Tracts. Increased allocations have also been made for education, health and family planning.

The gross domestic product [GDP] growth rate has been projected to grow by 6.1 percent next fiscal year. The target of GDP growth rate this year was 5.1 percent. The revised projection indicates it may decline to a little less than 2.6 percent. The principal reasons for this are the flood and the decline in the industrial sector output growth because of the reduction of purchasing power in the rural areas following the floods.

The next fiscal year's food budget has been prepared with government food stocks assumed at about 12 lakh tons at the beginning of the year. Total imports under foreign assistance and domestic financing has been estimated at 18.5 lakh tons and internal procurement target at 5 lakh tons. Total expenditure in the food budget has been estimated at 1,667 crore taka of which 679 crore taka will be available under foreign assistance and 988 crore taka will have to be met from domestic resources.

Presenting the budget, Mr M.A. Munim gave a resume of the national economy during the outgoing year and the prospects for the next fiscal year. He said there were growing indications of steady improvement in several important areas of the national economy during the 2d half of the last fiscal year. But the economy suffered a setback when the country was struck by a disasterous flood. The adverse consequences of damages to food production and the (?various) structures also affected various sectors of the economy. Under the direct guidance of President Ershad, the government, various private organizations, and the people as a whole mobilized themselves for relief and rehabilitation. International assistance also strengthened national efforts to meet the situation.

About the export sector, the finance minister said the country's export earnings represent a bright spot in our economy. As against the original export target for the outgoing year of $1,150 million, the export earnings may exceed $1,200 million. This will represent a 12 percent increase over the last year. The finance minister said in order to attain the growth target for the next year, we must facilitate productive investments in both public and private sectors and increase the mobilization of domestic and external resources. He expressed the hope that the new budget would give the nation a new direction for marching toward progress and development through people's participation in economic activities.

The total resources for the next year's ADP available from various internal sources and external assistance amount to 4,647 crore taka. There is a gap of 668 crore taka for financing the ADP. Out of this amount, over 603 crore taka will be met from new fiscal measures. This will still leave a gap of 65 crore taka which will have to met by borrowing from the banking system.

About the proposed new measures, Mr M.A. Munim said efforts have been made not to impose taxes on the sectors which directly affect the common man. Measures have been taken to raise resources by restructuring and adjusting the existing tariffs and taxes. He said government is trying to protect the legitimate interests of the local industries, the consumers, reduce dependence on imports, and prevent smuggling. To attain these objectives, the import duty and sales tax are not being used only as a tool for the collection of revenue. Taxation proposals have been made to reduce considerably the import duty and sales tax on industrial raw materials to encourage industrial production.

The new fiscal measures proposed by the finance minister in the new budget include exemption of sales tax on imports of iron and steel [word indistinct] scraps and scrapped vessels, iron and steel, powder and sponge. Import duty on G.P. [galvanized plain] sheet is proposed to be reduced from the existing 50 percent to 30 percent. The import duty on M.S. [mild steel] plates used as raw material for shipbuilding and other industries is proposed to be reduced from the existing 50 percent to 30 percent, while the import duty now charged at 150 percent on springs, leads for springs, bolts, nuts, washers, rivets, and screws is proposed to be reduced to 50 percent. The import duty on tin sheet now chargeable at 30 percent is proposed to be reduced to 20 percent and the import duty on silicon sheet used in electrical manufacturing industries is to be reduced from the existing 20 percent to 10 percent. The import duty on welding electrodes, except mild steel and cast iron electrodes, is to be reduced to 30 percent from the existing 150 percent, while the import duty on copper rods is to be reduced to 10 percent. Import duty and sales tax on different raw materials of the chemical industries sector have been proposed to be revised in order to facilitate the expansion of the sector.

To further encourage production in the textile industry, sales tax on cotton yarn will be reduced from 20 percent to 15 percent. The import duty charged at the rate of 50 percent on tire, coir fabric is proposed to be fixed at 30 percent, while the present import duty of 50 percent and sales tax of 20 percent on eggs of silkworm are proposed to be exempted wholly. To give protection to local production of mustard seed, it has been proposed to impose 20 percent import duty on mustard and rape seeds. Twenty percent import duty on crude soybean oil will be levied as the general consumers do not get any benefits out of the tax exemption allowed so far on the item.

In order to protect the interests of the local industries, proposals have been made to rationalize the import duty and sales tax rates on transport vehicles. The existing import duty of 20 percent on micro computers is proposed to be reduced to 10 percent. This concession will also apply to the imports affected under the passenger baggage rules. The cottage industries sector will continue to enjoy special concession of excise duty. In the new budget, proposals have been made to enhance the rates of excise duty on selected items to rationalize some of the existing rates and to change the collection procedures in case of few others. [passage omitted]

Among direct taxes, a number of changes have been proposed in respect of income tax. The objectives of these changes are to widen the tax rates, check tax evasion, utilize the tax measures as a supportive force in augmenting investment, employment opportunities, and production, and to encourage exports. Air ticket tax at the rate of 150 taka per ticket will be realized on the international routes to mobilize additional internal resources. A new tax called insurance premium tax at the rate of 5 percent of the premium paid on general insurance policies will come into effect from the 1st of next month. Thus additional revenue from direct and indirect taxes next fiscal year will come to over 517 crore taka. Under nontax revenue, additional yield of 86 crore taka is expected. Of this, 50 crore taka is expected from [word indistinct] and 36 crore taka from development levy. The existing relief and rehabilitation levy at the rate of 4 percent on telephone and telex bills will, however, be discontinued from next fiscal year.

The finance minister also placed before the house a revised budget for 1987-88. The revenue receipts for the outgoing fiscal year have been revised at 5,146 crore taka and the revenue expenditure at 4,730 crore taka, thus reducing the revenue surplus at 416 crore taka. The size of ADP for the outgoing fiscal year was revised at 4,650.61 crore taka. After presenting the budget, M.A. Munim tabled before the house the finance bill 1988. Speaker Shamsul Huda Chowdhury later adjourned the House till 1000 on Monday.

Earlier, the Council of Ministers considered and approved the budget proposals for the next fiscal year. The meeting was held at the cabinet room of Sangsad Bhavan [parliament building] with President Ershad in the chair.

Opposition Announces Program To Oust Ershad

BK1706034088 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 17 88

[Text] In Bangladesh, the leader of the seven-party alliance, Begum Khalida Zia, and Jamimat-i Islami have announced a fresh agitational program from today seeking ouster of the Ershad regime. Addressing a public meeting in Dhaka, Begum Zia criticized the eighth amendment to the Constitution making Islam the country's state religion. She also criticized the new fiscal

measures proposed in the national budget presented in parliament yesterday. Reacting to the budget, the Awami League president and the leader of the eight-party alliance, Sheikh Hasina, said this illegal parliament has no right to impose new taxes on the people.

India

Election Irregularities, Violence Reported

BK1706040988 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 17 Jun 88

[Excerpts] The counting of votes is being taken up today in 4 of the 7 Lok Sabha and 10 of the 11 assembly constituencies which went to the polls yesterday. The first results are expected by this evening. The Lok Sabha constituencies where the counting is being held are Allahbad, Godhra, Pali, and Sirsa. The 10 assembly constituencies are Dwarka and Maliya in Gujarat, Gohad, Lashkar East, and Kharsia in Madhya Pradesh, Khetri in Rajasthan, Tanda and Chhaprauli in Uttar Pradesh, and Barabani and Kumargram in West Bengal. [passage omitted]

In the Faridabad Lok Sabha constituency, one person is reported to have died and seven injured in incidents of violence. According to the returning officer, six persons were injured at Palwal in a clash between two groups. In Faridabad, one person was injured; two cars were burnt.

The Election Commission has asked the returning officer of the Chhaprauli assembly constituency in Uttar Pradesh to inquire into the allegation made by the Janata Party that four booths have been captured. In Jammu and Kashmir, ballot boxes from the interior hilly areas of Udhampur Lok Sabha constituency will be taken to Kathua by helicopter today. The AIR Jammu correspondent reports that 45 to 50 percent votes were polled yesterday.

7 'Terrorists' Arrested; Arms Seized in Punjab

BK1606085988 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 16 Jun 88

[Text] In Punjab, Patiala police have arrested seven terrorists, three of them were apprehended after an encounter with the police at Amloh in Patiala District. All the arrested terrorists have been involved in a number of crimes. A large quantity of arms and ammunition, stolen scooters, and some cash were recovered from them.

Two constables were killed and one seriously injured, when a police patrol party was ambushed by a gang of terrorists near Bagapura village under Sarhalli police station of Amritsar District last night. According to the police, the patrol party was on its way to Chola Saheb in a jeep when attacked by the terrorists. The injured constable has been admitted to a hospital in Amritsar.

Gurkha 'Militants' Throw Bombs at Police Camp

BK1706091588 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 17 Jun 88

[Text] In West Bengal, GNLF [Gurkha National Liberation Front] militants hurled powerful bombs at a state armed police camp at Sukhiapokhri in Sadr subdivision last night. Police say that the camp did not suffer any damage. The militants fled when they were chased away by the security men. In another incident, a powerful bomb exploded in Darjeeling town late last night. There was no immediate report of any damage or casualty.

Armed Mobs Kill 17 in Bihar Villages 16 Jun

BK1706091188 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 17 Jun 88

[Text] In Bihar, at least 17 people were killed and a number of others injured, when an armed mob attacked villages of Bhagalpurtola and Nauni under Kaku police station of Jahanabad District last night. Official sources told our correspondent that the injured people have been admitted to the Padma medical hospital. The director general of police and other senior police officials along with a large posse of police force have rushed to the spot.

AFP: Former Navy Officer Charged With Spying

BK1506001688 Hong Kong AFP in English 1838 GMT 14 Jun 88

[Text] New Delhi, June 14 (AFP)—A reti[illegible] op-ranking" Indian Navy officer was remanded i[illegible] tody Tuesday on spying charges, the PRESS TR[illegible] OF INDIA (PTI) said.

The officer, accused of smuggling out of India top-secret defence documents, was arrested before boarding a flight from Bombay for certain unspecified Western countries, PTI said. Police found the documents in his possession.

PTI did not give the officer's name or rank nor specify when he was arrested.

A Bombay metropolitan magistrate remanded him in police custody after questioning him in camera Tuesday, PTI said.

Iran

AFP: Paris Embassy Denies Khomeyni Dead

AU1706073488 Paris AFP in English 0730 GMT 17 Jun 88

[Text] Paris, June 17 (AFP)—The Iranian Embassy on Friday denied "categorically" a British media report that Iran's spiritual leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni was dead.

In a communique, the embassy said "Iranian counter-revolutionaries have tried ineffectively to spread rumours about the death of Imam Khomeyni, which we at the Iranian Embassy categorically reject."

On Thursday evening, the British television Channel Four said "rumours" were circulating among Iranian exiles in Paris that Ayatollah Khomeyni had died. The ayatollah was reported last week to have liver cancer, although the reports were denied by the Iranian authorities. The embassy said the rumours were a response to the restoration as from Thursday of diplomatic relations between France and Iran.

According to Channel Four, which quoted Iranian exiles in Paris, members of the Khomeyni family, including the ayatollah's elder brother, had travelled urgently to Teheran on Thursday. The guards at the ayatollah's residence in Teheran had been changed suddenly, the report said.

The exiles said telephone links with Iranian capital had been cut and that a number of dignitaries had cancelled foreign trips at the last minute.

Majlis Speaker Delivers Friday Prayers Sermons

LD1706112288 Tehran IRNA in English 1055 GMT 17 Jun 88

[Text] Tehran, June 17, IRNA—Majlis Speaker and Deputy Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani today deeply regretted that the Islamic Republic of Iran had been wrongly portrayed as "the main threat" against Arabs because of what he described as a perversion caused by the reactionary Arab shaykhs in the region.

He said Islamic and revolutionary Iran could become a great backing for the Arab ummah and the Arab states in their confrontation against Israel and the Zionists.

Addressing a huge crowd of Muslim worshippers here at Tehran University campus and nearby streets, Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani who is also substitude leader of Friday prayers added that the U.S. presence in the Persian Gulf was to cheer the Baghdad regime and other subservient governments in the region in order for them not to fear Islamic Iran and instead firmly support the tottering Ba'thist regime.

On Washington's intention to supply advanced weapons to regional shaykhdoms, the Majlis speaker adverted to U.S. secretary of state's remarks and said the very point that George Shultz defends the sale of modern fighter-bombers and missiles to Kuwait for use against Iran, "very well exposes the filthy intentions of arrogance."

"Iran is the principal threat," Shultz said Thursday when defending the U.S. Administration's proposed dlrs. 1.9 billion sale to Kuwait of 40 fighter bombers and 1,260 missiles, bombs and munitions.

According to foreign reports four members of a Senate appropriations subcommittee raised questions as to Kuwait's reliability as a U.S. ally and suggested that the sophisticated weapons could fall into enemy hands and be used against the Zionist regime.

The acting commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces said elsewhere in his sermons that the principal objective of global arrogance behind portraying Iran as the main threat against Arab regimes in the region is to save Israel and prepare the ground for a settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict under the auspices of Iraq's imposed war on Iran.

He referred to the recently concluded Algiers Arab summit as just another scheme by global arrogance in encouraging dependent Arab regimes to take a coordinated stance against a threat which in his opinion was nothing but "Islam and the Muslim masses in the region."

Satanic powers, he said, would apparently condemn Israeli crimes in the occupied Palestine by convening of an Arab summit whenever they deem right in order to cover up their real intentions.

The Majlis speaker urged Muslim intellectuals and scholars throughout the Islamic world to endeavour towards unveiling plots of enemies of Islam and awakening of Muslims.

The Armed Forces commander devoted another part of his Friday prayers sermon to Iran's "Bayt al-Moqaddas-7" operations launched in Shalamcheh front in the southern sector early Monday.

He said Iranian forces had advanced 10kms deep inside enemy positions with an "incredible speed." He said the operations in which "new tactics" were employed, aimed at extensively destroying enemy troops and paralyzing its war machine.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani criticized the imperialist media for playing down the Iranian victory which he said aimed at giving morale to the shaky Arab regimes "who have lined up against Islamic Iran in the region."

The speaker urged Iranians who have no important problems to join the war front through the grand despatch to take place June 28, marking the anniversary of a terrorist bomb explosion at the central headquarters of the now dissolved Islamic Republic Party (IRP) in 1981.

The bombing by the terrorist so-called Mojahedin-e Khalq organisation (MKO) whose leaders have now fled to Baghdad, killed at least 72 ranking Iranian officials including former Chief Justice of the Supreme Court Ayatollah Mohammad Hoseyn Beheshti as well as a number of Majlis deputies.

The prayer leader said regular despatch of troops to the war fronts, in addition to its positive impact on the trend of the war, would also offset the biased propaganda of arrogant mass media.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani also praised the significant role of Construction Jihad members in and behind the war fronts.

Khomeyni, Velayati Exchange Letters on Policy

WA17061118 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 16 May 88 p 3

[Text] Some time ago, Dr Velayati, the minister of foreign affairs, in a letter sent to the office of his excellency the imam complained about a number of statements, opinions, and news propaganda questioning the plans relating to the country's foreign policy. He viewed these kinds of questions as a threat to the foreign policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran. In response to Dr Velayati's letter, the imam of the nation, while praising the efforts of the employees of this ministry, stated that such "rumors," which do not conform with the country's basic foreign policy, created problems for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

In addition to this, he thought these kinds of problems could possibly have an undesirable effect on the country's internal policies.

The following is the response of his excellency the imam to Dr Velayati's letter, along with a part of the letter written by country's foreign minister to the office of the honorable leader of the Islamic Revolution.

The imam of the nation, in response to Dr Velayati, wrote the following letter to him:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Dr Velayati, esteemed minister of foreign affairs:

I know you to be a religious and compassionate individual of the revolution. You and our friends in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs must have patience with the criticism, whether true or false. The open atmosphere of political revolutionary Iran, the lack of experience of some officials, taking the lead in rapidly bringing each matter before the public, although it may be to the disadvantage of the people—all these examples not only makes the work of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs difficult, but also in some circumstances has an undesirable effect on internal politics. I offer my prayers for you and all those serving Islam and Iran.

I am hopeful that as in the past you in your service only consider God. From the Almighty Lord I wish for your success and that of other servants of Islam. Peace and God's forgiveness be upon you.

Ruhollah Musavi Khomeyni, 9 April 88

Dr Velayati's letter:

Dr Velayati, minister of foreign affairs, in his letter to the office of the imam of the nation stressed that the politics of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs have always followed that of his excellency the imam. He said:

As Your Eminence knows, the foreign policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran is decided by the heads of three powers within the framework of your honorable office, and the goals of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran are executed through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Your Eminence, more than anyone, is aware that our coworkers in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs until now have made great efforts to further the sacred goals of the Islamic Republic and foil the various and ever-increasing enemy plots, and thanks to the Lord, they stand worthy before the Almighty and you.

Mr Velayati adds: Unfortunately, it is evident that without regarding the interests of the country and the Islamic Revolution, questions are discussed in the mass media and public assemblies which do not benefit the country at all. Sometimes these questions put constraints on those inside and outside the country who serve in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Building foreign relations requires much time and effort, but can be quickly and easily destroyed.

Anniversary Message Sent to Khomeyni

LD1606200588 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1913 GMT 16 Jun 88

[Text] Today is 16 June, the anniversary of the martyrdom of four dear ones among the lofty sons of Islam: Hajj Sadiq Amani, Mohammad Bokhara'i, Morteza Niknezhad, and Reza Saffar-e Harandi [executed in mid-sixties following assassination of late shah's prime minister]. We send our condolences and congratulations on the occasion of their martyrdom to the holy presence of the imam of the ummah and to all the loved ones who are nurturing martyrs. We send our greetings to all the spirits of the revolution's eminent martyrs.

Oil Minister Returns From OPEC Meeting

LD1606111588 Tehran IRNA in English 0801 GMT 16 Jun 88

[Text] Tehran, June 16, IRNA—Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh who was in Vienna to participate in the 83rd ministerial meeting of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) returned here Wednesday night.

Twelve out of the 13 member states agreed on an OPEC production ceiling of 15.06 million barrels a day.

Former Oil Minister of Indonesia Dr. Subroto was elected OPEC secretary general.

Assesses Results of Meeting

LD1606151588 Tehran IRNA in English 1505 GMT 16 Jun 88

[Text] Tehran, June 16, IRNA—Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh today described election of former Indonesian Mining and Energy Minister Dr. Subroto as the new secretary-general of 13-member OPEC as a "very positive" achievement of the organization's 83rd conference in Vienna.

Speaking to reporters here, Aqazadeh said the election of Subroto whom he described as an "experienced authority" on oil affairs was one of the most important decision ever made by OPEC over the past few years.

The election of the new secretary-general is a success for the Islamic Republic because it put an end to Iraqi domination over the organization's Secretariat, he said.

Aqazadeh, commenting on the outcome of the 83rd conference, said the organization's agreed ceiling of 15.06 million bpd for the second half of this year is less than demands for oil which indicates the conference's firm determination to stabilize the oil price.

The oil minister predicted that the oil price would soon rise to 18 dollars per barrel provided that all OPEC members observe the aforesaid daily ceiling.

However, Oil Minister Aqazadeh expressed concern that the lack of political understanding among member states might tempt some of them to violate their assigned quotas.

The minister pointed out that failure of a plan to grant Iraq a quota equal to that of Iran was another success at the 83rd conference for the Islamic Republic.

He expressed hope that member states would reach an agreement on cooperation between OPEC and non-OPEC oil producing countries in their next meeting in Vienna scheduled for November 21.

If the OPEC and non-OPEC states work out such an agreement the number of organized countries exporting oil would increase to 19 or even more, Aqazadeh said. This would jeopardize the vested interests of the U.S. and cut its hands from international oil markets, he added.

The 83rd OPEC conference was convened in Vienna from June 11 to 14.

Aqazadeh Interviewed on Ties with France

PM1706101088 Paris LE MONDE in French 17 Jun 88 p 4

[Interview with Petroleum Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh by Veronique Maurus in Vienna—date not given]

[Text] Vienna—[Maurus] The French people feel that Iran interfered directly in French politics by agreeing to help free the hostages just a few days before the presidential election. What exactly happened? Why did Iran agree to help Mr Chirac?

[Aqazadeh] I know we had no such intention and we still have no such intention. It was probably Mr Chirac who tried to manipulate the situation. It is obvious that if a country asks for help or cooperation, Iran will help that country. Mr Mitterrand made no such request. In politics it is natural that each party and each faction should try to exploit situations for their own advantage, but, I repeat, that was not our intention.

Our own assessment in Iran was that Mr Chirac had little chance. We did not want to manipulate French affairs. That was not our aim.

[Maurus] Are you suggesting that the timetable was chosen by France?

[Aqazadeh] Yes, I think so. It was France that made the initial request; consequently, the whole scenario was organized by France. If, for instance, Britain or Germany has problems in Lebanon and requests our support and our cooperation, the timing of their request is not our problem.

[Maurus] Could the French hostages have been released earlier?

[Aqazadeh] I think that it would have been possible whenever France had decided to request our cooperation and accept our views. However, that is a personal opinion.

[Maurus] What do you expect the resumption of diplomatic relations between Paris and Tehran to achieve?

[Aqazadeh] We are essentially very interested by this normalization of our relations but it is up to France to decide how far it wishes to go to benefit from it.

In my view, France made a mistake in its attitude toward Iran after the revolution. The French wasted great opportunities for economic relations between the two countries. Despite the fact that the Iranians have always liked the French and favor them in many spheres—industry, technology, and so forth—opportunities have unfortunately been offered to other countries because of the French attitude after the revolution.

There are some states which do business worth more than 1.5 billion dollars per year with our country. And I know that some of this business is France's market share which has been taken over by those countries.

I think that our countries ought to try to cooperate and establish cordial relations.

[Maurus] Do you hope that France will resume its oil imports?

[Aqazadeh] Following the normalization of diplomatic relations, there is enormous potential for economic relations. There are already many requests in Iran to resume imports from France. There are proposals in many spheres like the agricultural and food sphere (sugar, mutton), and numerous proposals for investment. There are many possibilities for investment and projects in my own ministry—the Petroleum Ministry. For instance, we would like French cooperation in the project for exporting gas to Europe (by gas pipeline or gas tanker). There is enormous potential in other spheres, such as refining or mineral exploration.

Our country has no foreign debt and our purchases from foreign countries benefit from the good credibility which we enjoy. In most of our contracts with our partners we usually use payment in kind. For instance, if we want to build a refinery, we can pay in crude oil.

[Maurus] Can the Iranian economy withstand the present oil price level? You are said to have exhausted your financial reserves.

[Aqazadeh] The sudden drop in oil prices in 1986 was a real test for our country. We discovered how to live without oil. Our country has a relatively highly developed industrial infrastructure. The industrialists need raw materials and they have learned to finance them by their own exports.

Our oil revenue is now devoted exclusively to the war effort and essential goods. Last year, oil revenues totaled 10 billion dollars and the country can survive with 10 billion dollars. For instance, the Petroleum Ministry invested 800 million dollars last year.

Iran has enormous mineral resources. It has the second biggest gas reserves in the world and large oil resources; it also has gold, coal, uranium, zinc, copper, and so forth. Those resources are intact. There is enormous potential for investment. Anybody who invests in our country will not lose out.

[Maurus] Are you hoping for economic relations to be resumed on a large scale?

[Aqazadeh] I would like to make the French people understand how much they have lost by breaking ties with Iran. France has lost Iran, and what has it gained instead?

You know, if the Americans are given the go-ahead, they will rush forward. Even now they are still sending signals. The British too want to establish relations with us. But we have historical problems with those two countries connected with their former colonial approach to Iran.

We do not have this kind of problem with France. Even if we take into account France's attitude after the Iranian revolution, we do not have any more problems with the French than we do with the Japanese, for instance.

[Maurus] Does Iran accept that France will continue to cooperate with Iraq?

[Aqazadeh] I do not think that that is a problem.

Rejects Link With Hostages

LD1706153088 Tehran IRNA in English 1515 GMT 17 Jun 88

[Text] Paris, June 17, IRNA—Iranian Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh explained potentials for Tehran-Paris economic cooperation to the French daily LE MONDE Thursday, on the occasion of resumption of diplomatic relations between Iran and France.

In the interview Aqazadeh said France made some mistakes in her relations with Iran after the 1979 Islamic Revolution, and that Paris had thereby lost a great deal of opportunities for economic cooperation with Iran. He said by tradition Iranians are friendly with France and that when it comes to relations with a foreign country the Iranians prefer France to other (West-European) countries. [passage omitted]

Elsewhere, Aqazadeh referred to the U.S., and British efforts to resume relations with Iran and said Iran has some difficulties with these two countries, which he said are of historical origin and date back to their colonialist outlooks towards Iran. "We have no such problems in our relations with France."

The minister said "continuation of Paris-Baghdad cooperation would not hinder normalization and expansion of Tehran-Paris relations."

He rejected any interference of the Islamic Republic in the internal affairs of France within the framework of the release of French hostages in Lebanon, and made it clear that the time for release of the last French hostage in Lebanon which was several days before the second round of presidential elections in France, had nothing to do with Iran, but that it was determined by France.

Aqazadeh was interviewed by LE MONDE in Vienna, where he participated in the 83rd session of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries.

Commentary on Ties With France

LD1606140188 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1100 GMT 16 Jun 88

[Political commentary]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. As expected, diplomatic relations between Iran and France were reestablished today, and on the basis of an agreement the two countries will soon exchange ambassadors. Relations between Iran and France were severed about 1 year ago following the so-called war of the embassies. Of course, this was not a problem with France alone. Somehow a similar problem existed in relations with other European countries, the objective being our country's diplomatic and economic isolation. At the same time, a wave of diplomatic onslaughts on embassies of the Islamic Republic was planned in the international community in order to undermine Iran's political prestige. However, thanks to the decisiveness of the Islamic response to this conspiracy, subsequent efforts to acheive this isolation were aborted. However, because of France's particular political combination, the war of the embassies resulted in the severance of that country's relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Although there was some improvement in France's relations with the Islamic Republic following Jaques Chirac's appointment [as prime minister of France], these relations remained at a very low level, thanks to interparty rivalries, and were ultimately broken off. Basically, Chirac's attempts to improve relations with the Islamic Republic by meeting Iran's demands for the repayment of a 1 billion [currency not specified] loan and by reviewing the policy on supporting the counterrevolution did not contravene that country's policies. However, the rival party's opposition to any strengthening of relations with the Islamic Republic on the eve of the French presidential elections could be considered as a success for the Chirac government.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has always favored healthy relations with world countries within the framework of safeguarding the interests of the Islamic Republic and has repeatedly declared its desire to have equal ties with all countries. Although France's action of resuming relations with the Islamic Republic is a step toward the expansion of links with this country, the survival and durability of these relations lies in an appropriate response by the French side in the face of the existing facts in the two countries' relations. A review of the policy of supporting the Iraqi regime and a fresh evaluation of France's stance vis-a-vis the imposed war in necessary. France is one of the two main countries which fulfill Iraq's weapon requirements and is also a permanent member of the Security Council. These could be effective factors in strengthening relations between Iran and France and their survival.

On the other hand, France's move to restore relations with the Islamic Republic is not a totally new idea; rather it is considered a European trend. The events of recent years and the trend of developments in the region and the world demonstrate that the power and influence of the Islamic Revolution in the region is not something that the global powers, in particular the West, can ignore. The move that the West has started by making decisions based on wisdom and realities followns exactly the course of realizing the power and influence of the Islamic Revolution in the region. It is a rejection of their past unsuccessful attempts in trying to isolate the islamic Republic of Iran.

In any case, the reestablishment of diplomatic ties between Iran and France and the exchange of embassies returns the two countries' relations back to normal. However, the survival and stability of these relations and their expansion to a more desirable level require greater understanding of the facts by the French Government and that the Islamic Republic is committed to its unalterable principles.

Iravani Comments on OPEC Fund Decision

LD1606111888 Tehran IRNA in English 0913 GMT 16 Jun 88

[Text] Tehran, June 16, IRNA—A joint commodity fund designed to stabilise prices of raw materials and products in international level will start activities shortly, said Iran's minister of Economic and Financial Affairs, Mohammad Javad Iravani here Wednesday.

Iravani added that the formation of the fund became possible despite U.S. obstacles and after several countries joined rank and the OPEC Fund assumed to pay for the share of certain other countries.

Iravani who was talking to reporters on his arrival here from the OPEC Fund meet in Vienna, further said that Iran's proposal to the fund to increase its aid to the Palestinain revolutionaries to dlrs. five million has been welcomed and passed to the board of directors for a final decision.

Iravani described the OPEC Fund as "one of the best examples of South-South cooperation' and said Iran stressed at the meet the necessity of giving priority to infrastructural and effective projects in the Third World countries when granting loans.

Iran proposed ways to increase the fund's resources through improvement of oil prices and also ways to ensure payment of loans which was supported by other countries, Iravani said.

Editorial Assesses Walters' Trip to Mideast
*PM1606122788 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian
1 Jun 88 p 16*

[Editorial by Yusef Gharavi: "Aims of Vernon Walters' Trip"]

[Text] Vernon Walters, permanent U.S. representative to the United Nations and White House Middle East envoy, yesterday returned to New York following meetings and discussions with 10 regional leaders on the Iran-Iraq war and the Persian Gulf. General Walters is known as a troubleshooter among high-ranking White House diplomats, and his past success in very difficult missions suggests that American officials want to utilize the experiences of a seasoned diplomat to overcome the complex problems they are now facing.

During his 2-week trip, General Walters met top officials in Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Syria, Iraq, Bahrain, Qatar, the UAE, Kuwait, and Saudi Arabia. The main focus of Walters' discussion reportedly was to find out how the regional countries feel about American efforts to pass another UN resolution against Iran and also about the presence of American forces in the Persian Gulf. In reality, Walters' trip follows a White House decision to increase the American fleet's escort activity in the Persian Gulf. This decision was reached after the U.S. fleet was unable to protect Kuwaiti tankers against attacks in the Persian Gulf.

Increasing hostilities near the shores of the Persian Gulf shaykhdoms have created a wave of concern in reactionary circles.

Part of Walters' trip had to do with evaluating the amount of cooperation from the regional countries regardaing a widespread plan giving the United States the initiative in the region with the help of countries like Israel and Egypt. However, there also was some political coordination for a resolution forcing Iran to accept Security Council Resolution No 598, as well as informing the 10 heads of future American moves following the Moscow summit.

It is also being said that while in Iraq, Walters assured the leaders in Baghdad that the United States would instigate clashes and increase tension in Persian Gulf waters in order to "occupy" the Iranian forces who would have to fight against any aggression or threat by the U.S. fleet in the Persian Gulf. This would give the Iraqi regime more time to prolong its life, repair damages, and generally improve its position. On the other hand, the special American envoy's Baghdad trip comes at a time when both sides are determined to strengthen their cooperation in their confrontation with Iran. The Iraqi regime openly has admitted its cooperation with the Americans in an effort to make up for its losses on the northern fronts. In this connection it should be noted that at a time when the priority of identifying the aggressor in any resolution has been accepted and included in the secretary general's plan, the United States has taken a position in Iraq's favor by opposing any changes to Resolution No 598. Following its failure to get support for an arms embargo against Iran, it is now whispering about plans for another resolution that would force Iran to accept Resolution No 598.

The United States never imagined Iran would counterattack against its own aggressive Navy in the Persian Gulf and was surprised by Iran's powerful reply. Therefore, Walters is trying to repair the United States' shattered dignity and image in the regional waters. He wants the countries in the area to increase their cooperation in order to force Iran into accepting conditions set forth by the Iraqi regime for establishing an imposed peace in the United States' interest. This is why he stressed in his interviews the need for Iran to accept Resolution No 598 as a basis for establishing peace.

By sending his experienced envoy to the Mideast, Reagan is determined to end the Persian Gulf crisis before the end of his presidency. However, Reagan and his advisers are overlooking the fact that the Iraqis are the primary elements in the war and they insist that Iran forget about its rights and obey the one-sided resolutions of the Security Council.

One must keep in mind that the United States showed little reaction in 1980 when the Security Council issued a resolution asking for a halt to Iraqi troop movements inside Iranian territory, which was ignored by Iraq. However, the situation changed and with a forecasted Iranian victory on the fronts, the United States became busy trying to defend its own elements in the Iraqi Ba'th Party which has taken complete control since 1979, quite openly and without thinking of the consequences or international norms. It is using political and military tools and "gunship" diplomacy to wage war on the Islamic Republic.

A look into the region's future shows the initiative and the upper hand will continue to rest with the Islamic Republic of Iran. The United States will not be able to change the situation in the region by undertaking diplomatic moves such as sending Vernon Walters to the area.

Although at the moment the United States remains hopeful because of incidents such as the breaking of diplomatic ties between Iran and Saudi Arabia, the political-military situation in the region will be guided toward realization of the peoples' rule and rejection of foreigners and their lackies from Islamic lands.

Commentary Views Future of Najibullah Regime
*LD1606154388 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1105 GMT 16 Jun 88*

[Political commentary]

[Excerpts] According to the most recent reports, the forces of Kabul's regime have withdrawn from their last defensive lines in Qandahar. The situation in Qandahar is such that it could be the first big city to fall into the hands of the Afghan revolutionary Muslims.

Meanwhile, according to reports, the Afghan Muslims are presently stationed at the gate of the military city of Jalalabad, strengthening the predictions of the mujahidin that the fall of Jalalabad is inevitable. On the other hand, simultaneous with the continuation of the Afghans' search for justice against the Soviet forces and the Kabul regime, Sayyed Ahmad Gaylani, a moderate leader of the Afghan mujahidin, has taken over the leadership of the seven-party alliance of the mujahidin based in Pakistan for 3 months. It is expected that under the rotational leadership system of the alliance, Gaylani, who has now reached this status, will request the mujahidin to gradually reduce their attacks on the withdrawing Soviet forces. This comes at a time when diplomatic sources, noting the increase of the Afghan mujahidin's influence over the defensive lines around Kabul, predict that the Najibullah regime will be brought down by Afghan revolutionary Muslims, particularly in light of the withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan which is being carried out in accordance with the Geneva agreements. [passage omitted]

According to the sources of the Muslim Afghan revolutionaries, changing the pawns under conditions, when the mujahidin are in control of 90 percent of their country's territory, will not weaken the determination of the Muslim nation of Afghanistan, particularly as the Kabul regime, with the phased withdrawal of more than 100,000 Soviet troops, is growing weaker and weaker and, in the final analysis, will not be able to maintain itself in power.

Political observers believe at the same time that, in view of the hopeless endeavors of Najibullah to remain in power, and as he must shoulder the responsibility of the massacre, injury, and homelessness of millions of Muslim Afghans, he cannot have any role in the future political and military developments of Afghanistan, particularly after the complete withdrawal of Soviet forces from that country.

Ramadan Chief Details Operations Inside Iraq

NC1306060288 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 13 Jun 88

[Text] The fighters of Islam carried out 508 [figure as heard] extensive and partisan operations deep within Iraqi territory last year, inflicting deadly blows to the Zionist Iraqi regime. This was stated by the head of Ramadan HQ, the center which directs the irregular operations of the IRGC, during an interview with a Central News Unit correspondent. He stated: During the past year the Ramadan HQ forces, with the assistance of fighting Iraqi forces, carried out 496 limited and partisan operations and 14 extensive operations under the code names of "Fath" and "Zafar," deep within Iraqi territory. He added: Thus, last year there was an average of 1 operation every 17 hours and 42 operations a month against the Saddamist forces. During each operation many Saddamists were killed or wounded. He added: During these operations thousands of men of Iraq's Zionist force were either captured or surrendered to the fighters of Islam and the peshmerga.

The head of Ramadan HQ added: During the extraterritorial operations by the fighters of Islam during the past year, 3 airplanes, 24 helicopters, 1,525 military vehicles, 170 tanks and APC's, 174 pieces of engineering machinery, 87 heavy guns of various types, more than 50,000 light and heavy arms, and a large quantity of the Zionist enemy's materiel were destroyed or taken as booty by the fighters of Islam and the Kurdish peshmerga.

Volunteers From Cities Depart for Fronts

LD1606184388 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 16 Jun 88

[Text] In continuation of the widespread departure of fresh combat forces from throughout the country to the war fronts, the cities of Tabriz, Ardabil, and Maragheh today witnessed the departure of fresh mobilization forces to the war fronts.

Combat Operations in War With Iraq Continue

Communique No 3,235

LD1606170388 Tehran IRNA in English 1639 GMT 16 Jun 88

[Text] Tehran, June 16, IRNA—Iranian Air Force jets effectively carried out their routine patrol missions over the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman Wednesday, providing air cover for the Navy and reconnoitering several foreign vessels of different types, said a military communique here thursday.

The 3235th Joint Staff communique said that Iranian naval units, besides controlling shipping, decisively carried out patrol missions in the territorial and international waters yesterday.

On the battlefields Wednesday, Muslim forces of Iran reconnoitered and shelled Iraqi positions, troop concentration sites and supply routes throughout the fronts, killing and wounding an undetermined number of enemy soldiers and destroying several bunkers and observations posts of theirs.

Iranian artillery fire repelled an Iraqi patrol unit in Azgaleh operational theater Wednesday, killing and wounding several enemy patrolmen.

In Hajj 'Umran, Alvatan, Sar Dasht, Salman, Faraj, Kani-Sheykh and Mehran, Iraqi engineering and logistical activities were disrupted yesterday by Iranian artillery fire.

Iranian Gendarmerie forces traded artillery fire with Iraqi troops in Bayat, Zobeydah, zones of their influence, Wednesday, Thursday, inflicting several casualties on the enemy and destroying several bunkers and a communication pylon of theirs.

Heavy fire of Iranian Muslim combatants inflicted losses on Iraqi troops in Kalaleh, 'Eyn-e Khowsh and Chazabeh theaters and heights of Kohnehrig, Mian Tang and Talval, concluded the communique.

Iraqi Planes Violate Airspace

LD1706100188 Tehran IRNA in English 0921 GMT 17 Jun 88

[Text] Shiraz, Fars Prov., June 17, IRNA—Intruding Iraqi planes violated the air space here at 20:20 hours local time (16:50 GMT) Thursday. The enemy planes were forced to flee when faced with Iran's heavy anti-aircraft fire, without succeeding in their bombing mission.

Pakistan

Opposition Leaders Condemn Shari'a Amendment

BK1706033488 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 17 Jun 88

[Text] In Pakistan, Mrs Benazir Bhutto and other top opposition leaders have condemned President Ziaul Haq's ordinance forcing shari'a as the supreme law. The leaders stressed that the matter should have been left on elected assembly. An all-party conference continued its deliberations for the 2d day yesterday to chalk out a mass contact program to force President Ziaul Haq to hold elections within the stipulated 90 days.

Meanwhile, several people were reported killed or injured in a big explosion which ripped through a gas pipeline in western Karachi yesterday. The cause of the explosion was not immediately known.

Demonstrations Banned; Officials Appointed

BK1706005188 Hong Kong AFP in English 1904 GMT 16 Jun 88

[Text] Islamabad, June 16 (AFP)—Processions, rallies or demonstrations have been banned in the Pakistani capital.

An official announcement issued by the city authorities Thursday said: "The gathering of five or more persons has been prohibited" for two months. Carrying fire arms within the city limits was also banned. No reason was given for the restrictions.

Observers said the ban might have been imposed to forestall demonstrations against a decree issued by President Mohammed Ziaul Haq Wednesday establishing the rule of shari'a (Islamic) law.

Meanwhile, General Ziaul Haq Thursday replaced North West Frontier Province (NFWP) Governor Fida Mohammed Khan with retired Army Brigadier Amir Gulestan Khan Janjua, who has served as ambassador to Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Nepal.

Gen. Ziaul Haq earler appointed retired General Fazle Haq as NFWP caretaker chief minister after sacking the federal and provincial governments on May 29.

Caretaker chief ministers for Sind and Baluchistan Provinces have not yet been named. Press reports suggest former generals may take the two posts.

Gen. Ziaul Haq re-appointed Nawaz Sharif as Punjab chief minister.

The president also announced the appointment of Z.A. Suleri, former editor of the state-owned PAKISTAN TIMES as his media adviser, carrying the rank of minister of state.

The appointment follows Gen. Ziaul Haq's announcement Wednesday that appropriate measures would be taken to eliminate obscenity and other un-Islamic features from the media following the promulgation of the Shari'a ordinance.

Presidential Adviser on Mass Media Appointed

BK1606154288 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 16 Jun 88

[Text] Zaidi Suleri has been appointed the president's adviser on mass media. He will enjoy the status of a minister of state.

NWFP Governor Gulestan Janjua Sworn in 16 Jun

BK1706024288 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 16 Jun 88

[Text] Retired Brigadier Amir Gulestan Janjua took oath of office of the NWFP governor this evening. The chief justice of the Peshawar High Court, Mr Justice Faqre Alam, administered the oath of office. The caretaker chief minister, retired Lieutenant General Fazle Haq, provincial ministers, Peshawar High Court judges, and senators were present on the occasion.

MRD Issues Resolutions To Contest Elections

BK1406131588 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 7 Jun 88 pp 1, 8

[By Abbas Nasir; all quotation marks as published]

[Text] Karachi, June 6: Movement for Restoration of Democracy formally announced Monday it will participate in the forthcoming general elections and appealed to the nation "Not to allow Gen. Ziaul Haq to wriggle out of his pledge to hold polls.

Alliance Convener Mairaj Muhammad Khan released the text of four out of the seven resolutions adopted at the end of the party heads meeting Sunday during the course of a press conference Monday.

The central executive committee [CEC] also approved a "minimum programme" of participation in the elections and, according to Mairaj each alliance component was honour-bound to adhere to this programme whether in power or otherwise.

Mairaj confirmed that MRD Secretary-General Malik Mohammad Qasim, who was present at the press conference, had resigned voluntarily and informed that the alliance secretariat would work under the Convener till the next election.

The MRD Convener said that he himself had withdrawn his candidature for the post of secretary-general as a mark of unity and solidarity. "Contrary to inspired press reports, MRD parties have set aside individual ambitions for greater unity", he said without elaborating further.

"It is with pain that MRD admits before the nation that despite all efforts be they constitutional, legal sacrifice of life and limb and other forms of struggle, Ziaul Haq's dictatorship remains", Mairaj said while underlining the need for a concerted effort to reverse the status quo.

Quoting constitutional provisions from "Ziaul Haq's own constitution" the MRD Convener said the former was bound to declare polls schedule and the names of the caretaker government simultaneously with the announcement of dissolution of assemblies and the cabinets". The longer he delays the schedule the graver his crime", Mairaj added.

Indirectly sympathising with the dismissed Junejo government, Mairaj said that even according to the 1985 Constitution "the president could only remove the prime minister if the latter lost the confidence of the House, a fact that could have been established on June 8, when the budget session was due to commence".

He lashed out at the priorities Gen. Ziaul Haq listed for the caretaker set-up saying an interim administration had no authority except to hold elections. "Accountability may be used as a pretext for putting off elections but we want some of Ziaul Haq's Army colleagues—those among the world's richest 10 generals—also held accountable for subjecting the country to unchecked plunder".

The MRD Convener was very critical of the appointments of Nawaz Sharif "a land grabber, tax evader and foreign exchange rule violater" as well as Fazle Haq "who is no less" to head caretaker governments in the Punjab and the NWFP.

He said these two had been appointed to facilitate organised rigging if and when the elections are held but added "we have a comprehensive plan to counter such tactics. We plan to form people's defence committees countrywide to check electoral malpractices".

Asked the alliance response if it is not allowed to contest the elections, Mairaj said "we are cautious. We want to see his actions first. We want to disarm the adversary and take the nation with us. But we will do this step by step".

Mairaj refused comment on questions relating to certain contentious issues discussed at the meeting and told another questioner who was insistent if MRD had a strategy in case polls are delayed "you don't want us to show him (Ziaul Haq) all our cards at this time".

Firmly denying reported rifts in the alliance folds on a number of issues, he described as an "internal affair" of MRD the question of modalities of the proposed cooperation in elections.

He confirmed the next emergency meeting of the MRD central executive committee would be held immediately after an announcement regarding the election schedule.

MRD Resolutions

The CEC of the MRD approved a 20-point minimum programme and affirmed that all the component parties stood committed to honour it under all circumstances.

"The resolutions are as follows",

The MRD resolves that:

1) "MRD will participate in the general elections.

2) "The component parties of MRD are committed to the policy of mutual cooperation, and in pursuance of this commitment, the component parties shall cooperate with one another and coordinate their participation in the elections under an agreement for the purpose. A committee will be constituted to formulate the mechanism of such cooperation and coordination.

3) "The CEC approves a 20-point minimum programme and affirms that all the component parties of MRD shall be bound to work for and ensure the implementation of this minimum programme, whether they are in power or in the Opposition.

4) "MRD continues to be a democratic political alliance and stands committed to continuing the struggle for the holding of free and fair general elections on party basis under the 1973 Constitution and the election rules as existed on July 4, 1977 and without any curb whatsoever such as registration of parties etc, and for the total

fulfillment of MRD's original 4-point programme as well as the various decisions taken unanimously since its formation in February 1981 till to date, and

5) "As soon as the schedule of the general elections is announced, an emergency meeting of MRD central executive committee will be held to decide upon matters relating to MRD parties' participation in the elections".

Minumum Programme

1) "Complete political freedom without any curb or restriction on political parties and political activities.

2) "There shall be no curb or restriction on civil liberties and fundamental rights.

3) "All anti-worker labour laws shall be scrapped, the oppressive Thekedari [contract] system shall be abolished by law, and the rights and interests of the workers and their trade unions shall be protected by law.

4) "The interests of the peasantry shall be protected by law and effective measures shall be adopted to help and assist small and subsistence farmers and to stop the ejectment of tenants.

5) "Education shall be made cheaper and better in quality, education institutions shall be freed from the scourge of violence, and the curbs on student unions shall be lifted.

6) "The Press and Publications Ordinance and all other laws curtailing the freedom of the press shall be scrapped, all the cancelled declarations of newspapers and periodicals shall be restored, all the unjustified demands of security from publishers shall be withdrawn and the National Press Trust shall be dissolved.

7) "The system of mixed economy with a balanced relationship between the state and private sectors each complementing the other instead of working against each other, while recognising the leading role of the state sector shall be re-vitalised, improved and implemented.

8) "State protection and assistance shall be rendered to small and medium level traders, investors and entrepreneurs.

9) "All non-developmental expenditures including the unreasonably large spending on the military and civil bureaucracy shall be severely curtailed and the funds thus shall be allocated to the social sector in order to raise the standard of living and quality of life of the common man.

10) "Allocation of funds for education, health, housing development of katchi abadis [slums] and various social welfare schemes and civic amenities shall be substantially increased.

11) "At least 50 percent of the savings resulting from the drop in the international prices of petroleum, edible oil and tea shall be passed on to the people through appropriate budgetary measures.

12) "The defence budget shall be placed before the Parliament for discussion and approval.

13) "All the genuine demands of the teachers, doctors, engineers, low-paid government employees and the personnel of various other profession shall be conceded.

14) "Emergency measures shall be introduced to improve the law and order situation, curb violence and lawlessness and eliminate corruption, arms and drug-trafficking, smuggling and other anti-social activities.

15) "Measures shall be taken to ensure that the police force is recruited from among the local population and it is brought under the control of the elected bodies.

16) "All the discriminatory laws against women shall be scrapped.

17) "Independence of the judiciary shall be fully respected and the judiciary shall be made completely independent of the executive.

18) "All the political prisoners shall be released and cases pending against all political workers and leaders in Pakistan and abroad shall be withdrawn.

19) "Necessary constitutional amendments shall be introduced to give practical shape to the declaration on autonomy of the federating units approved by the MRD at Lahore on August 2, 1986, providing for entrusting four subjects namely Defence, Foreign Affairs, Communications and Currency to the Centre and leaving all other subjects to the federating units and for other matters incidental to the autonomy of the federating units, which declaration forms the annexure to this programme, and it shall be effectively implemented.

20) "The foreign policy of Pakistan shall be a policy of genuine positive non-alignment."

Another resolution said:

"In the considered opinion of the CEC of MRD, General Ziaul Haq is once again trying to wriggle out of his commitment of holding general elections within 90 days, which is also a constitutional requirement under his own 1985 Constitution.

"The CEC calls upon General Ziaul Haq to announce his own assets accumulated over a period of 11 years and those of the top brass of the Armed Forces and civil bureaucracy for public scrutiny, in order to put at rest the wild rumours and stories circulating among the people and the foreign media.

"The CEC further demands that the COAS [Chief of Army Staff] President should stop all his nefarious machinations designed to delay the holding of general elections and announce the election schedule without any further delay.

The third resolution said:

"The CEC of MRD resolves that sectional strife in Sind and elsewhere in the country has been initiated and is being continued for the last three years under a pre-planned scheme, master-minded by the ruling clique in order to divide the people so that they may perpetuate their unconstitutional and undemocratic rule.

"The CEC of MRD will take all necessary steps to help the people of Karachi and other cities to achieve mutual understanding and restoration of peaceful atmosphere in the towns of Sind and elsewhere.

"A committee is being constituted to promote the above objectives of MRD by holding consultations, seminars and other steps in this direction and for determining the causes of these conflicts and adopting measures for achieving the solution of the problem".

The fourth resolution said:

It is the commitment of MRD that it will work towards practical measures on the basis of Islamic tenets as enshrined in the 1973 Constitution.

Three resolutions, pertaining to the Geneva agreements, the Ojhiri camp fiasco [ammunition dump explosion] and unemployment will be released to the Press Tuesday.

President on Nuclear Program's 'Peaceful' Nature

BK1606114188 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 16 Jun 88

[Text] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq has reiterated that Pakistan's nuclear program is entirely peaceful in nature and is solely directed at meeting the country's needs for socioeconomic development. He was inaugurating in Islamabad this morning the 13th international summer college on physics and contemporary needs which will hold its working sessions in Nathiagali.

The president said we are determined to go ahead with this program and resist all pressures in its way. We will ensure that the benefits of peaceful application of nuclear energy are available to the people of Pakistan in all sectors, including agriculture, medicine, industry, and energy. He pointed out that Pakistan is (?definitely) short of energy and the government has asked the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission to establish the necessary infrastructure and facilities and acquire essential know-how for achieving a greater measure of self-reliance in the design and construction of nuclear power plants. This will help us meet our growing needs of electricity in future.

The president said Pakistan wants to see South Asia free from nuclear weapons and the threat of their use. He pointed out that Pakistan has consistently worked for the denuclearization of South Asia. He recalled Pakistan's proposal for declaring South Asia as a nuclear-free zone and most specific proposals at the bilateral level with India to promote and strengthen the nonproliferation regime in the region and eliminate nuclear weapons in South Asia.

Sri Lanka

AFP: LTTE Said 'Ready To Lay Down' Arms

BK1606095588 Hong Kong AFP in English 0936 GMT 16 Jun 88

[Text] New Delhi, June 16 (AFP)—Sri Lanka's dominant Tamil guerrilla group is ready to lay down weapons and halt its bloody bush war against Indian troops, a rebel spokesman said Thursday.

"We will soon make an announcement about giving up arms," a spokesman for the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) told AGENCE FRANC-PRESSE over the telephone from Madras, southern India.

Spokesman Castro (one name) said the LTTE, which is fighting some 52,000 Indian troops in Sri Lanka's north and east, would also announce its readiness to help implement the 1987 Indo-Sri Lanka peace accord which it had rejected last year.

The pact, signed in July by Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and Sri Lankan President Junius Jayewardene, sought to end a bloody Tamil separatist campaign.

The spokesman said the decisions were reached by the LTTE's Madras-based leaders, led by the group's former Jaffna regional Commander Sathasivan Krishnakumar alias Kittu, with officials of the Research and Analysis Wing (RAW), India's external intelligence agency.

Indian official reaction was not immediately available.

(A total of 477 Indian troops had been killed and 1,500 wounded in fighting in Sri Lanka as of Thursday, the highest casualties suffered by Indian troops on a peace-keeping mission abroad, an Indian High Commission spokesman said in Colombo.

(Tamil militant fatalities were estimated at about 2,000 since New Delhi launched a major offensive October 10 to disarm the LTTE, the spokesman added.)

Police Kill 3 JVP Terrorists; Councillor Shot
BK1406104488 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1005 GMT 14 Jun 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, June 14 (LANKAPUVATH)—Three southern terrorists described by police as being members of the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna [JVP] were shot dead in a confrontation with police at Kataragama in the Hambantota District, 280 kilometres south of Colombo, in the early hours of this morning.

Police told LANKAPUVATH that a posse of policemen led by Assistant Superintendent K.P.P. Pathirana were in search of suspects involved in several political killings when at 0445 hours local time today in Galvitiya, 3 miles from Kataragama town, they were attacked by a gang of terrorists firing rifles. The policemen effectively counter-attacked by returning the fire killing 3 terrorists and causing the rest of the gang to flee. There were no police casualties in the encounter.

A report from Polonnaruwa states that provincial councilor D.T.G. Sirisena was riding his bicycle yesterday at 1600 hours local time at Divulankadawala in the Medirigiriya police area when he was shot dead by a JVP gunman firing a T-56 rifle. Three empty T-56 shells were found by the police at the scene of the murder of the 60-year-old politician.

Six southern terrorists armed with T-56 rifles shot dead G. Premadasa at 2045 hours local time in Weligama last night while he was washing his motor cycle.

New Deputy Labor Minister Appointed 14 Jun
BK1406132288 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1153 GMT 14 Jun 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 14 June (LANKAPUVATH)—Sri Lankan President J.R. Jayewardene has appointed the district minister of Matara, Dayananda Wickremasinghe, as deputy minister of labor today, states a government communique. The communique also states Mr. Dayananda Wickremasinghe was appointed as acting minister of labor until the return of Mr. Michael Joseph Perera, minister of labor, from abroad.